

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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I N S I D E

NATION



The coldest, most dangerous blast  
of polar air in decades grips the  
Midwest.

➤ PAGE 14

WORLD



Iran is promoting a baby boom to  
help make up for its graying popu-  
lation.

➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE



A Filipino caregiver has emerged as  
the newest star of "X-Factor Israel."

➤ PAGE 19



## Thursday Market vendors protest 1 percent land fee

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Garapan Street Market vendors are questioning a "land fee" equal to 1 percent of their gross sales that the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture—under agreement with the Department of Public Lands—now requires them to pay for selling goods every Thursday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

## CNMI complies with terms of Johnson settlement

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has complied with the terms of the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action, including the timely payment of \$3.75 million in annual contributions for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014.

Assistant attorney general Reena J. Patel, counsel for the CNMI government, submitted Monday in the U.S. District

Court for the NMI a report on the status of the Commonwealth's compliance with the settlement agreement.

Patel cited that a section of the settlement requires the CNMI government to pay the settlement fund \$25 million in fiscal year 2014. Another section, Patel said, states that 15 percent of the annual contribution must be made by the end of the first quarter. Therefore, she said, the CNMI government must pay at least \$3.75 million in annual contributions by

This land fee is on top of what the vendors pay in weekly fee and business gross revenue tax.

"This is ridiculous. It is strong-arming people. The government cannot just require you to pay something by sending you a paper, without even meeting with the vendors to explain this new fee," Thai House Restaurant president Jack Hudak told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

See VENDORS on Page 4

Dec. 31, 2013.

Patel disclosed that the CNMI government has made \$3.75 million in incremental contributions to the settlement fund: \$1.041 million on Nov. 1, 2013; \$1 million on Dec. 2, 2013; \$309,000 on Dec. 5, 2013; \$250,000 on Dec. 18, 2013; \$400,000 on Dec. 20, 2013; \$400,000 on Dec. 27, 2013; and \$350,000 on Dec. 30, 2013.

Patel also noted that a separate sec-

See JOHNSON on Page 4

A young girl plays underneath the table of a vendor booth at yesterday's Tuesday Night Market at the Garapan Fishing Base. Vendors at a similar project called the Garapan Street Market held every Thursday night at the same location are raising concerns about a land fee based on 1 percent of their total sales that they now also have to pay to the government, on top of their weekly fee and business gross sales tax payments.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## Relief as 15 NMI soldiers return

» Arrival at Saipan airport Thursday morning

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

"Relief and happiness—that's what I felt seeing and hugging my son tight," 54-year-old Joey Ejercito told *Saipan Tribune* last night, describing the moment he first saw on Monday night in Guam his oldest son, SPC Josh Ejercito, one of the 15 CNMI soldiers who just returned from their Afghanistan deployment. They are among the returning 600 soldiers

See SOLDIERS on Page 4

Saipan gas prices up 10 cents again. **PAGE 2**  
Lifeguard arrested for alleged sex abuse of a minor. **PAGE 5**





Tourists walk past a Mobil Oil Marianas price display in Garapan yesterday. Mobil raised its Saipan pump prices by 10 cents a gallon on Monday night, and Shell Marianas is expected to follow suit.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

# Local

## Saipan gas prices up 10 cents again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Saipan motorists got their first sticker shock for the year after Mobil Oil Mariana Islands increased its gas pump prices by 10 cents a gallon Monday night, bringing the price of regular unleaded gasoline to \$4.959 a gallon. This, as the price of oil hovered over \$94 a barrel amid cold weather in the United States.

"It's affecting us big time," Pamela Combs told *Saipan Tribune* as she filled up her pickup truck yesterday at a Mobil service station in Garapan. "Grocery is going up, gas price is going up but the minimum wage didn't go up. It's like we're working only to be able to buy gas."

Combs, a resident of Achugao, said their family's hard-earned dollars could only go so far to survive each day and the added fuel cost only worsens their situation.

Jesse Deleon Guerrero, of Dandan, said a gas price hike "is a bad way to start a new year."

Garapan resident Felipe Ser-

rano, meanwhile, said motorists like him can't do anything about gas price increases.

"I hope this would be the highest and no more," he said yesterday while buying \$5 gas for his pickup truck at a Mobil station.

As of late yesterday afternoon, Shell Marianas' gas prices

remained unchanged. However, Mobil and Shell have historically mirrored each other's price changes within a day or two.

With Monday night's 10-percent gas price increase, the price of regular unleaded gasoline on Saipan is now \$4.959 a gallon.

Super unleaded gasoline is

now \$5.279 a gallon on Saipan.

Diesel on Saipan now stands at \$5.519 a gallon, a bit more than the CNMI's current minimum wage of \$5.55 an hour.

Gas prices on Rota and Tinian are much higher than those on Saipan. Overall gas prices in the CNMI are among, if not the highest, on American soil.

## Rotary Club unveils Rock to Read initiative in April

To celebrate this year's National Library Week, the Rotary Club of Saipan will be holding its inaugural Rock to Read program this April.

For the past nine years, the civic organization focused its energies on the CNMI's elementary students with its popular Parade of Books and dictionary drives each year.

This year, however, the organization will shuffle things up, with the 2014 Rock to Read that will cater to the islands' junior high and high school students.

All CNMI junior high and high school teams are encouraged to register immediately by emailing their team name, advisor, and team captains to [saipanrotary@gmail.com](mailto:saipanrotary@gmail.com).

The 2014 Rock to Read program calls for a team of students—after reading a book of their choosing from the official

Rotary book list—to present a creative dance or song performance based on the book to compete for cash prizes.

Rotary Club president Laila Y. Boyer said the criteria for the competition are that elements of the story from the approved book must be



Boyer

incorporated or highlighted in the performance, performers should show creativity and originality in bringing the story to life in song or dance, performance must be a minimum of

three minutes, and not more than five minutes and performance includes a minimum of five students and up to the maximum of 35.

"We are so excited to see the creativity of the junior high and high school teams this year. They will be taking a book and turning it into a live song or dance per-

formance—hence, Rock to Read," said Boyer.

"We are aware that reading scores among junior high and high school students drop dramatically in the CNMI, so we would like to highlight the importance of reading and put a little fun into it," she said. "We are also choosing books and stories that carry the values of Rotary... There is so much learning and skills that are incorporated into this event it should not be missed."

Coordinators for the event are Rotary Vocational directors Tom Thornburg and Marcia Ayuyu.

Up for grabs is a \$1,000 cash prize for first place, \$750 for second place, \$500 for third place, \$300 for fourth place, \$200 for fifth place, and \$100 for consolation prizes.

The book list will be available soon on the Rotary Club of Saipan's Facebook page. To register, email [saipanrotary@gmail.com](mailto:saipanrotary@gmail.com). (Mark Rabago)

## Docomo raises \$10K for Haiyan victims in PH

Docomo Pacific, through its community organization Docomo Pacific Cares, raised \$10,000 for victims of Typhoon Haiyan, which left more than 6,000 dead and more than 27,000 injured in the central Philippines in November.

Docomo general manager James Nelson said all proceeds generated from the campaign will be used to purchase much-needed medical supplies to assist the many victims of Haiyan.

"We've established an efficient channel for donations to this relief effort so medical supplies can be quickly distributed to those affected. We thank our partners and the community for their coopera-

tion and support with this fundraising effort," he said.

The raised funds were generated three ways—by Docomo customers texting "DONATE" to 4356, monetary donations dropped in boxes at



Nelson

Docomo offices, and Docomo employee donations and other in-house fundraising initiatives.

Nelson said this fundraising drive was also made possible by partners like KWAU-FM Magic 100.3, So-

renson Media Group, KKMP, *Marianas Variety*, United Filipino Organization, Consulate General of the Philippines and its Guam partners, *Pacific Daily News*, KTKB 101.9 Megamixx, Filipino Community of Guam, and the

Ayuda Foundation.

UFO president Annamae Adaza praised Docomo and Nelson for raising a large amount of money that will help in the relief efforts for Haiyan victims.

"Wow, \$10,000 is a huge amount. It only shows that a lot of people are still generous in sharing, knowing how hard things are nowadays when it comes to money. The Yolanda/Haiyan fund drive is not a one-time deal and we can still extend our help knowing it will take a long time to rebuild those structures and the livelihood of people affected back home. Once again, thank you to the whole CNMI community for all the support to all our fund drives as well as to all those companies like Docomo Pacific who initiated the collections." (Mark Rabago)

on Dec. 29 and 31, 2013.

In March 2009, Babauta was among six prisoners who held a 14-hour hostage drama at DOC in Susupe. At the time, he was serving a prison term for involuntary manslaughter over the killing of a Bangladeshi national in Chalan Kanoa.

As a result of the hostage taking, in August 1999 the federal court slapped Babauta with a 180-month prison sentence and five years of supervised release, for hostage taking and felon in possession of a firearm. (Ferdie de la Torre)

## Ex-convict found using illegal drugs several times

Ryan T. Babauta, a man who is on federal probation after serving a prison term for joining a group of prisoners in a hostage drama at the Department of Corrections in 2009, was found using illegal drugs several times.

The U.S. Probation Office asked the federal court Monday to issue a warrant for Babauta to explain why his term of release should not be revoked.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramon V. Manglona granted the U.S. Probation's request.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola said that Babauta admitted in writing to using methamphetamine or "ice" on Nov. 6 and 17, 2013. Arriola said that Babauta further admitted using "ice" and marijuana on Dec. 4, 2013.

The defendant, Arriola said, also failed to give advance notice to the probation officer before changing his residence.

The probation officer added that Babauta failed to appear for his counseling sessions on Dec. 3, 12, 16, 24, 28, 30, 31, 2013, and random drug testing

## CUC's first quarter fuel purchase at \$16.9M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects to incur a slightly higher fuel cost this fiscal year.

CUC financial chief officer Charles Warren bared yesterday that the agency expects to spend about \$65 million in the entire 12-month period of fiscal year 2014, a slight increase from last fiscal year's \$63 million.

In the first quarter alone, from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2013, the agency already spent \$16.9 million for fuel, Warren said.

He disclosed that the aver-

age weekly expense for fuel is \$1.25 million.

"Fuel expenditures for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014 were \$16.9 million. Projected fuel expense for the year, at this point, is about \$65 million, or \$1.25 million each week. So we're essentially forecasting costs at about the same level [as last fiscal year]," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

CUC is a nonprofit organization whose operation relies heavily on the payment of its power, water, and wastewater customers. It remains under a state of emergency due the on-

going financial and workforce crisis at the agency.

On Jan. 1, 2014, power customers began seeing a slight drop in their electric bills after the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approved last month a new levelized energy adjustment clause of \$0.30426 per kilowatt-hour. That will result in a monthly savings of \$6.46 for residential users consuming up to 455 per kWh. LEAC is basically used for fuel purchases.

CUC operates three power plants that are all oil-fueled diesel engines.

## 2nd wave of TF Guam members going home Saturday

**GUAM (Pacific News Center)**—The second wave of the 600 soldiers that have been demobilizing in Mississippi are headed home this weekend.

Gov. Eddie Calvo accompanied Guam National Guard Adjutant General Major General Benny Paulino to Camp Shelby on Sunday to see through the last of the soldiers.

Calvo told the K-57 Breakfast Show yesterday morning that the soldiers will leave Mississippi on Friday and arrive on

Saturday, Guam time.

Paulino said the Guam soldiers received many accolades from dignitaries, civilian contractors and ranking officers while the soldiers were in Afghanistan and now demobilizing.

The first wave of 280 soldiers arrived back on island just past midnight this past Sunday. The process of integrating back into the community started immediately with GovGuam agencies working to help soldiers,

especially those who will go unemployed, get back into the workforce.

Paulino said his concern a year ago was that some of the soldiers had joined right out of high school and hadn't furthered their education or worked another job.

He says the unemployment compensation will be a big help.

The soldiers while on deployment laid some of the groundwork to begin the job hunt once back in Guam.



# SHEFA gave away \$21.3M in 9 years; collection at \$17.3K

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has spent a total of \$21.291 million in financial assistance for its scholars here and abroad in the nine-year period since the inception of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance in 2004, according to latest program figures.

The SHEFA annual report for 2012 also indicates a total of \$17,356 that's been collected from defaulted scholars from 2004 through 2012.

Prepared by SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa, the 45-page document shows that biggest total amount awarded by SHEFA to its scholars was in 2010, amounting to \$3.654 million, followed by the \$3.078 million awarded

in 2009. Another \$3.026 million was awarded to scholars in 2008.

The following are the total awards disbursed to SHEFA scholars in a nine-year span: 2004 (\$170,600); 2005 (\$1.925 million); 2006 (\$2.782 million); 2007 (\$2.302 million); 2008 (\$3.026 million); 2009 (\$3.078 million); 2010 (\$3.654 million); 2011 (\$2.810 million); and 2012 (\$1.540 million).

SHEFA provides financial aid not only to undergraduates pursuing their associate degree or baccalaureate degree but to graduates who wish to pursue their master's degree or doctorate. The program offers three kinds of scholarships: grant-in-aid, field of study, and performance-based or incentive award. Its source

of funds is the government's annual collection from poker machines and licenses. All financial grants are awarded twice a year—in the fall and spring terms.

SHEFA policy dictates that within three months of completing their courses, scholars are required to return to Saipan to work in the private or public sector. If a former recipient decides to remain and work abroad three months after completing or terminating their college studies, that grant assistance automatically converts into a loan. When this happens, the grant recipient must repay SHEFA the amount awarded with interest.

Based on SHEFA records, repayment collections from

2004 to 2012 totaled \$17,356.

Repayments only started in 2006, during which SHEFA collected \$553 from defaulted scholars. In 2007, loan collection totaled \$3,525. In 2008, this was at \$2,538. In 2009, collection was at \$2,325.

SHEFA also recorded loan collections of \$2,000 in 2010; \$5,745 in 2011; and \$666 in 2012.

## Top courses

A big portion of SHEFA scholars are taking or have taken social sciences and fine arts programs, representing 35 percent of beneficiaries. These programs include behavioral science, sociology, psychology, political science, communications, art, and law.

Meantime, 26 percent of SHEFA scholars have taken or are taking education course; 12 percent chose business courses; and 15 percent chose medical and allied fields, including biology, nursing, physical therapy, and dentistry.

Accounting only yielded 6 percent, while 5 percent of scholars pursue computer science and information technology courses.

The top five colleges and universities being attended by SHEFA scholars are the North-

ern Marianas College, University of Guam/Guam Community College, Chaminade University, Portland Community College, and Boise State University.

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## Man sues doctor, PMC for allegedly misdiagnosing broken toe as gout

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A man has filed a medical malpractice against a doctor and the Pacific Medical Center Corp. for allegedly misdiagnosing his broken big toe as gout.

Jose I. Quitugua is suing Dr. Ahmed Al-Alou, Pacific Medical Center Corp., and 10 unnamed employees of PMC, for negligence-medical malpractice.

Quitugua, through attorney Timothy H. Bellas, is demanding unspecified damages, attorney's fees, and court costs. He asked the Superior Court for a jury trial in his lawsuit.

*Saipan Tribune* repeatedly tried yesterday to reach Al-Alou and PMC for comment but no one answered their phone.

Bellas stated in the complaint that Quitugua went to PMC in Gualo Rai on Jan. 7, 2013, complaining of pain and swelling in his right knee. Bellas said that Al-Alou diagnosed Quitugua as suffering from gout and prescribed medication to treat it.

During a follow-up consultation two days later, the doctor adjusted the medications prescribed to Quitugua since they had alleviated the pain.

On March 1, 2013, Bellas said that Quitugua injured the big toe on his right foot at his home after accidentally hitting it against a door jamb.

Three days later, Quitugua went to PMC and spoke to an employee, whom he told about the injury to his toe. Bellas said the employee did not accurately document his complaint and instead told him to tell Al-Alou about it.

Bellas said that Quitugua told Al-Alou about the in-

jury and showed him his big toe. The doctor touched the toe and allegedly diagnosed the problem as gout and prescribed the drug Colcris.

On March 8, Quitugua returned for consultation since the pain had not been relieved. The doctor prescribed another gout medication, Indomethacin.

After taking the medicine for 20 days, the pain did not subside. Instead, the skin around the injured toe turned black and the plaintiff experienced stomach pains, muscle weakness and dizziness.

Bellas said that Quitugua returned to PMC on March 28, and the doctor continued to diagnose his condition as a case of gout of the right foot, big toe and requested that he provide a specimen of blood for diagnostic testing. Quitugua provided a blood sample to the lab on April 16.

Experiencing no relief from the pain and other symptoms, Quitugua decided to seek another opinion by consulting Dr. Osborne of the Saipan Health Clinic.

Bellas said that Osborne immediately had Quitugua's right big toe x-rayed and, upon review of the x-ray, determined that the pain and swelling were not due to gout but a broken toe. Osborne immediately immobilized the toe using a splint and bandages. However, due to the substantial passage of time without proper immobilization, the toe had fused improperly.

"As a result of such misdiagnosis, plaintiff's injury was not properly treated and he suffered more injury to his toe because it has healed incorrectly," Bellas said.

As a result, Quitugua will suffer permanent injury to his right big toe, Bellas added.

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**SPRING 2014 SEMESTER DATES**

**New and Returning Student Orientation**  
January 8, 2014  
6pm – 8:30pm  
Room D-1

January 9, 2014  
9am – 11:30am  
Room D-1

**English and Math Placement Test**  
January 10, 2014  
9am, Testing Center in Building I

**Registration**  
January 13-16, 2014  
9am – 6pm  
(Registration is scheduled by Student PowerCampus number. Visit [marianas.edu](http://marianas.edu) for details)

**Late Registration**  
January 17, 2014  
9am – 6pm

To schedule an appointment to take the English and Math placement Test call the Testing Center at 237-6774/6790.  
(Note: Placement tests will not be administered during registration.)

For the latest news and announcements, follow NMC on Facebook at [facebook.com/NMC.Proa](http://facebook.com/NMC.Proa) and on Twitter at [twitter.com/GoProa](http://twitter.com/GoProa) or visit our new YouTube page for archived videos!

For more information about admissions or registration, log on to [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu) or contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771.



# Mother testifies vs ex-husband in stepdad rape case

**GUAM (Pacific News Center)**—Powerful and emotional testimony yesterday from the mother of a teenager who accused her stepfather of raping her while her mother was deployed to Iraq.

This is the second time that Alvin Naputi San Nicolas is on trial for the same case. He had already been found guilty of 15 counts criminal sexual conduct back in February 2012 but his conviction was reversed when he won an appeal with the Supreme Court on grounds that his first indictment was unlawfully amended.

Alvin San Nicolas is on trial again for the rape of his stepdaughter. The alleged vic-

tim's mother, Dymphnia San Nicolas, took the stand yesterday against her ex-husband, telling jurors about the fateful day she found out about the rape that had been happening while she was deployed to Iraq and even after she had already returned home.

Dymphnia had been deployed while serving in the Army reserve for 10 months between April 2009 and February 2010. When she wasn't deployed, she was a teacher with the Department of Education.

Dymphnia testified that her husband was violent and belligerent and they often fought. One day, she said, she was fighting with her husband

while she was at work in front of her daughters.

"[My daughter] couldn't take the arguments that we were having at that time, so she sat down and she said, 'Mom, I need to tell you something,' and I said, 'What?' And she said that when I was deployed that Alvin was raping her and I didn't know what to do. I was so mad that I just started to scream," Dymphnia said, her voice cracking in anguish.

According to the initial magistrate's complaint, the daughter told police that her stepfather would rape her every day except during her menstrual periods. She had also told police that San Nicolas forced her to smoke

methamphetamine with her.

Dymphnia corroborated the drug use and told the jury that she had witnessed her husband smoke ice in front of her in the past.

A neighbor who lived in the duplex next door also testified yesterday. Raylene Quinata said that during Dymphnia's deployment she heard crying throughout the day and night, but she could not tell for certain if it was the alleged victim or her younger half-sister, who is the biological daughter of San Nicolas. Quinata said she began to notice strange behavior between the alleged victim and her stepdad.

But under cross examination,

defense attorney Pablo Aglubat pointed out that the crying happened after scolding and that San Nicolas was now the lone caretaker of two girls.

On redirect, however, assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio asked Quinata to clarify what times of the day she heard the crying. Quinata said she heard them during the day and also late at night between 1 to 2 in the morning. One evening, Quinata says she heard specific words out of San Nicolas' mouth.

"When I went into restroom at one to two am, I overheard Alvin saying, 'I'm done. Go in-

side.' That's the time I heard the crying," Quinata recalled.

The alleged victim's mother also told the jury that she observed strange behavior from her daughter and husband. Initially she presumed it was because she had been gone for so long.

She told the jury that when she came back she was restricted from spending time with her daughter and that her daughter slept in the living room with her husband.

Trial continues today at 1:30 pm in Judge Anita Sukola's courtroom. The alleged victim is expected to testify.

## Saipan lawmakers OK steeper fines, drop jail time for illegal cockfights

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

Saipan lawmakers passed yesterday a local bill increasing up to \$10,000 the fine for illegal cockfights, while removing the current three-month maximum prison term.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation also passed separate local bills renaming two roads and one park, along with measures amending the Saipan Zoning Law and re-appropriating money from projects funded by developer's infrastructure tax.

By a vote of 19-1, the delegation passed Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero's (Cov-Saipan) House Local Bill 18-21 with an amendment.

The bill amends the Saipan Cockfighting Act of 1994 to provide higher fines as an alternative to imprisonment for illegal cockfights. Leon Guerrero said the current law is "not

working" and the penalties are too broad.

He said the current penalty fee of \$600 is "low" and the maximum three-month imprisonment is costly and does not reflect the crime.

"They fail to deter violations. They also fail to punish violators appropriately by being too harsh on one hand and too lenient on the other. The amendment gives judges a higher ceiling for monetary fines and takes away the threat of incarceration in certain situations because this is not just costly, it also has proven to be ineffective," Leon Guerrero said.

Rep. Richard Seman (R-Saipan) was the only one present that voted "no" to the bill, saying the measure "sends a wrong message to the community."

Seman said he supports legal cockfighting but illegal cockfighting should not be taken lightly and jail time should not be removed.

Under the bill that's now on its way to the governor for action, a person who operates or facilitates an illegal cockfight will be fined \$1,500 for the first offense and up to \$10,000 for any additional offenses.

A person who actively participates in an illegal cockfight faces a \$500 fine for the first offense, and up to \$2,500 fine for any additional offenses.

Active gamblers or bettors face a \$250 fine, and up to \$1,500 for any additional offense.

Those who are non-bettors and non-reporters but are present at an illegal cockfight face a fine of \$50 for the first offense, and up to \$500 for any additional offenses.

### Changes in street, park names

Saipan lawmakers also passed by a vote of 19-0 Reps. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and John Paula Sablan's (Cov-

Saipan) HLB 18-29 renaming Hagoi Road "Knight Street" in honor of Mount Carmel School's 61st anniversary.

They also passed by a 19-0 vote HLB 18-30, renaming the newly-merged Haiguas Lane and Niyok Drive in Chalan Kanoa to "Tun Ben Kappan Road" in honor of the late Tun Ben Kappan and his contributions to Precinct 2 and CNMI people.

By a vote of 20-0, the delegation also passed Rep. Tony Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) HLB 18-33, naming the public beach behind San Antonio Elementary School the "San Antonio Village Beach Park."

Also passed were HLB 18-38, amending the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013; HLB 18-39 amending and re-appropriating fund balances from Saipan Local Law 17-9; and HLB 18-19, appropriating balances from projects funded by Saipan developer's tax.

## VENDORS

From Page 1

Hudak, who opened the first Thai restaurant in the CNMI in 1993 and is one of the original vendors at the Garapan Street Market, said he is not paying the 1 percent land fee until CCAC and DPL meet with the vendors to explain the fee.

"We were told if we stay here [instead of returning to Paseo De Marianas], we're not going to be charged extra. Now they're charging us extra. They should have been honest with us," said Hudak.

Angel S. Hocog, executive director of CCAC that oversees the Garapan Street Market, said CCAC has a temporary agreement with DPL that requires payment of a land fee that the council is supposed to collect from the vendors based on 1 percent of their total sales from the Thursday night market.

"It's stipulated in that agreement. This land fee is not illegal. This is not a tax but a fee," he said.

Hocog said there are current-

ly 49 vendors at the Garapan Street Market, and another 20 are on a standby list.

He said if the current vendors do not comply with the 1 percent land fee requirement, then CCAC won't have a choice but to let them go.

Hocog said CCAC's temporary agreement with DPL expires in April, and they are trying to negotiate with DPL for the latter to set aside a portion of the collected land fee for CCAC so that it can provide a better maintained site for the vendors.

"Hopefully DPL will give us a portion for beautification and maintenance," Hocog added.

CCAC is under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Both DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio and DPL Real Estate Division director Rachel Roque were on leave yesterday.

Frank Ada of Dela Cruz Passtry, another vendor at the Garapan Street Market, said the government is making it hard for small businesses to survive by charging an additional fee for a once-a-week tourism activity

mainly for tourism.

"How much more money do they want?" he said. "I think most of the vendors are contesting the land fee."

Another resident helping a relative operate a vendor's booth said that Garapan Street Market vendors "should not be charged a land fee."

Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero, general manager of Herman's Modern Bakery, separately said that in his view, CCAC or DCCA "cannot charge land fee as they do not have jurisdiction."

"If vendors are required to pay land fee, it should go to Public Land. DCCA has no authority under any law to charge for land that they do not own. This fee should go to MPLT office or Public Land," Guerrero said.

He said only by law can any agency be granted authority "to tax as fees."

"In the absence of any law, they can deny us to continue as a vendor but not technically," he added.

Guerrero said it seems the government is imposing new fees and charges "out of des-

peration."

In the "conditions of participation" between vendors and CCAC, No. 4 of the agreement partly states that vendors/sellers are required to "pay all fees imposed by Garapan Street Market Committee."

Guerrero saidm "This has never been imposed in the past and all of a sudden they are requesting for the land fee."

CCAC is now trying to collect the 1 percent land fee covering a few months. For Herman's Modern Bakery, for example, CCAC is asking payment of the land fee for the months of April to July 2013, based on the vendor's total sales for these months.

Thai House Restaurant's Hudak, meanwhile, is trying to meet with all other Garapan Street Market vendors so they could come up with a unified voice against what he describes as an improper land fee.

He is trying to get the vendors' contact numbers. He is also urging his fellow vendors to get in touch with him through telephone number 235-842.

## JOHNSON

From Page 1

tion of the settlement requires the CNMI government to remit employer contributions at the rate it was paying on Aug. 6, 2013. Finance Secretary Larisa Larson's records indicate that all employer contributions have been paid in full to date, she said.

Another section of the settlement requires the CNMI government to include all settlement class members in the same government health and life insurance plans as provided to current full time employees of the CNMI.

"Currently, the CNMI gov-

ernment offers a 50/50 premium share on the same insurance plans as the active employees," Patel said.

The CNMI government, she said, makes semi-monthly payments to the Government Health and Life Insurance Fund after receiving an invoice letter from the GHLI administrator.

"Such premiums have been paid in full as of the date of this filing," she said.

On the award issue, Patel said the government mailed a \$7,500 check to Johnson as her service award on Nov. 22, 2013, and that the latter received it on Nov. 29

"As the transition process continues, the CNMI hopes to work with the parties to ensure timely compliance," Patel said.

## SOLDIERS

From Page 1

with the Guam National Guard.

The 21-year-old Ejercito and 14 other soldiers from the CNMI will be arriving to a heroes' welcome on Saipan on Thursday at approximately 8:05am.

"It's really a big relief seeing your child for the first time after deployment. I am worry-free now, I can sleep much better knowing my son is back. During the midnight Mass, I had only one wish and that was for my son to come home safe and sound, for him to come home mentally, emotionally, and physically okay. I'm thankful that my and my family's wish was granted," the older Ejercito said in a phone interview from Guam.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in honor of the 15 soldiers' service, will also be at the Saipan International Airport Thursday morning along with the soldiers' families, friends, and community members.

The arrival will be followed by a motorcade from the airport, the governor's office said yesterday.

The 15 soldiers from the CNMI arrived in Guam early Sunday morning, along with 265 others members of the Guam Army National Guard 1-294<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

They are among the total 600 soldiers from the Guam Army

National Guard who were deployed throughout Afghanistan in 2013 to support NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan's role in training, advising, and assisting Afghan security forces.

They are now part of history as the largest group of reserve component troops to be mobilized and deployed from the Marianas.

The rest of the soldiers will be arriving in Guam, also from Camp Shelby in Mississippi in the days ahead.

The CNMI governor's office encourages the general public to participate in the welcoming of the soldiers at the Saipan airport tomorrow morning, "and display flags and yellow ribbons to show their support for the arriving Guardsmen."

For the Ejercito family, they have prepared a "welcome home banner" and souvenir shirts for their son's return from deployment.

"The Saipan (CNMI) community is very supportive of soldiers and we will see that again once the soldiers come home," the older Ejercito added.

He said his son will pursue his studies, and plans to earn his bachelor's degree upon his return.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, meanwhile, is encouraging community members not to leave their vehicles unattended while at the Saipan International Airport for the welcoming of the soldiers.



# Lifeguard arrested for alleged sex abuse of a minor

A lifeguard was arrested on Sunday night for allegedly kissing and touching a minor and punching a cash register of a

store in Kagman I.

Frankie C. Demapan, 23, was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, criminal mischief, assault and battery,

and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge

Teresa Kim-Tenorio kept the \$10,000 cash bail the court initially imposed for Demapan's temporary release. If he asks to modify the bail, Kim-Tenorio said she would insist on a third party custodian for him.

Assistant attorney general Peter Prestley had recommended a \$10,000 cash bail, while assistant public defender Michael Sato, counsel for Demapan, asked for the amount to be reduced, saying that majority of the charges are misdemeanor offenses. The judge denied Sato's motion.

Kim-Tenorio said she is bothered that a 13-year-old girl is involved as the alleged victim.

"I consider that quite serious," the judge said, referring to the charge of sexual assault of a minor in the third degree.

Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 16 at 9am.

Kim-Tenorio also noted that Demapan has two outstanding bench warrants for traffic cases issued in December 2012 and in October 2013.

Sato explained that the bench warrant for 2012 is a clerical error as Demapan already pleaded guilty in that case. He also moved to quash the 2013 bench warrant.

Kim-Tenorio quashed the bench warrants and set a status conference for the two cases on Jan. 27 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Jesse K. Seman stated in his report that a

police officer was dispatched on Sunday at 10:52pm to a store in Kagman I where a disturbance call was reported.

The alleged victim told police that Demapan, who is her sister's boyfriend, kissed her and touched her leg and thighs. When she resisted, he allegedly held her hands and pulled her down on the bed and kissed her on the neck. That's when the sister walked in and saw what was happening. The sister told their mother about it. The mother confronted Demapan and told him to get out.

Demapan became angry and allegedly punched a cash register twice, damaging it. The mother then called the police. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## 3 new doctors hired for public hospital

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Three more doctors recruited from outside the CNMI will boost the medical workforce at the Commonwealth Health Center this month to 27, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. interim CEO Esther Muña.

These new doctors will be assigned at the public hospital's internal medicine department, OB-gynecology section, and pediatric unit.

Muña said the new internal medicine doctor will supplement the four at the unit and will begin work in February. The one for the OB-gyne section is expected to begin this month and will join the two currently assigned to the unit. The new pediatrician is set to join CHC in March. CHC's pediatric unit currently has four full-time doctors. Another locum physician is expected to join them soon.

These new recruits, Muña said, were approved two-year contracts.

The arrival of the three new doctors will boost CHC's medical workforce to 27, including the two physicians assigned at the Rota and Tinian clinics.

At present, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has 24 physicians. These include four at internal medicine; three at the pediatric clinic; two at surgery; three at the emergency room; three anesthesiologists; one nephrologist; two assigned at the clinics; one at the psychiatry department; two OB-gyne; one

for the tuberculosis department; one on Tinian; and one on Rota.

Filling the gaps are two part-time pediatricians at the Family Care Clinic; six physician assistants stationed at the ER and other units; and four nurse practitioners.

The hiring of additional doctors, Muña said, will mean better service to patients. At the pediatric unit alone, the clinic can now be opened regularly as a result of the additional staff, she said.

CHC was forced to close service hours at the pediatric unit in recent past due to the lack of attending physicians or providers like nurse practitioners and PAs.

CHCC is also scouting for a new orthopedic surgeon—a position that Dr. Grant Walker recently vacated. Muña disclosed that a qualified candidate has been identified and would be brought in using a J-1 visa. But as to when this will be realized, Muña said that everything depends on the processing of documents.

Another anesthesiologist is also being recruited to replace one who resigned.

According to Muña, the corporation was able to tap in November the services of a visiting dermatologist, who does missionary work on the island and Guam. Since then, the doctor has been conducting periodic visits at CHC, which shoulders the physician's transportation and hotel accommodation while on mission.

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### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety Bureau of  
Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950  
Website: www.crm.gov.mp • Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-2013-X-070 submitted by SEA TOUCH LLC. for the temporary recreational facility for the purpose of operating a holding pen for sharks and stingrays for educational interaction within the lagoon areas fronting the Fiesta Resort Garapan, Saipan. The proposed project will include a 100X100 ft. floating dock with 80X6 ft. walkway, 18 concrete block anchors, and underwater fencing that will contain the stingrays and sharks within a depth range of approximately 6-14 feet.

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the Coastal Resources Management Office Susupe, Saipan.

The public is invited to attend and make oral comments regarding this project. The project file is open for review and comments during business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Written comments can be submitted to the CRM Office located in Tekken Street Susupe, Saipan immediately or mail to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007 or fax at 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this project.

/s/ANA C. AGUILO  
Acting Director  
Coastal Resources Management





## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC RFP 14-001

#### Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect and evaluate scientific data to better determine the potential for development of geothermal energy on Saipan. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently steep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect and evaluate extensive data will require the successful Proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on January 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-001 Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 10, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Executive Director,  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Manager, Procurement & Supply  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

## Hart in US to testify on NMC accreditation

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Hart is in California this week to testify on the institution's accreditation with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

The commission's meeting is scheduled for three days, from Jan. 8 to 10, and will be held at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel, in Sacramento, California. The assembly will consider institutional actions on member institutions, including NMC, which was sanctioned with show-cause status in February last year.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the first two days of the assembly will be an executive session while Jan. 10 is allotted for the public session. The third day's agenda includes a review of policies, including the Policy on Institutional Degrees and Credits, Policy on Monitoring Institutional Performance, Policy on Direct Assessment of Learning, and the Policy on Rights and Responsibilities of the Commission and Member Institutions.

The commission's agenda also includes reports from ACCJC president Dr. Barbara Beno and vice presidents Susan Clifford, Krista Johns, and Jack Pond. A copy of the public agenda is posted on the ACCJC website at [www.accjc.org](http://www.accjc.org).

According to Amanda Allen, accreditation liaison officer and NMC director of Distance Education, Hart will be provid-

ing information about NMC's continuing efforts to meet and exceed accreditation standards, including updates to the show-cause report that was submitted last October. The report's submission was followed by a visit of commission representatives to NMC.

Besides Hart, no other members of the college management and the Board of Regents are attending the commission meeting.

Hart, according to Allen, will also be giving updates on the activities that were reported in the college's supplemental report that was turned in by end-December.

"The supplemental report emphasized the college's efforts to sustain its accreditation momentum, and even goes further to describe other activities we have undertaken to address accredita-

tion recommendations," said Allen yesterday.

The report, she disclosed, also details the actions the college has taken to improve effectiveness in areas like access to Rota and Tinian, pursuing funds for the Facilities Master Plan, improvements to NMC's Information Technology infrastructure, NMC's governance structure and the Institutional Excellence Guide, and Board of Regents policies.

"We are proud that the college community continues to make important strides in numerous areas. The emphasis now shifts to sustaining the efforts and the progress we have made," said Allen.

NMC was placed on show-cause status by ACCJC in February 2013. The accredited status of the institution continues during the show-cause period. *(Moneth G. Deposa)*

## Tanapag Stream red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Tanapag Stream, which is located near Santa Remedios Road, just south of the Tanapag Meeting Hall before the intersection of Haraw Street. DEQ advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this stream for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this site contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded

the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzed four samples taken from the Tanapag Stream on Jan. 3, 2014. The excessive concentrations of enterococci bacteria in the stream may be the source of bacteria that triggered red flag advisories at the Tanapag Meeting Hall Beach in previous weeks. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. *(DEQ)*



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-008

#### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of approximately 18,000,000 US gallons annually of **Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel (Grade No. 2-D S15)** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" ASTM D975-11 or the latest revision.

The RFP package may be obtained upon completion of registration and receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **January 16, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-008, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **January 21, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email charles.warren@cucgov.org and Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Executive Director



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-009

#### Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop CUC's Integrated Resource Plan, which is a long-range plan that will select the most cost-effective mix of energy resources, both supply-side and demand-side, following a review of commercially available base load and renewable energy alternatives. This project will also include the design and development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for total system power supply, the design and implementation of financial models to be used for comparing both energy supply and renewable power integration options, along with Independent Evaluator (IE) services to develop and administer third-party, technical and financial review of received energy supply proposals, for the purposes of advising the CUC during the energy supply proposal selection process.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on **January 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**, at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-009, Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 26, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 12, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER  
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# PNA: 2014 to show increased benefits for islands

**MAJURO**—The Parties to the Nauru Agreement see 2014 as another groundbreaking year, with increased financial benefits for its eight island members, improved conservation of tuna, and expansion of its eco-label “Pacifical” in Europe and elsewhere.

On Jan. 1, fishing day fees rose to a minimum price of \$6,000, up from \$5,000 in 2012-13—although fishing days sold for more than \$6,000 in 2013. The new minimum benchmark price is part of PNA’s vessel day scheme that limits the number of fishing days sold to domestic and distant water fishing nations as a two-prong measure to conserve tuna stocks while increasing their value.

“The minimum benchmark price has served a good purpose since 2012,” says PNA CEO Dr. Transform Aqorau, who is based at the PNA office in the Marshall Islands. “But it has also been used to hold the price down.”

In 2013, some fishing companies paid as much as \$7,000 per day and Aqorau is of the view that letting the market set the price will result in a significantly increased fishing day price than the current benchmark.

PNA’s vessel day scheme has resulted in a quadrupling of revenue accruing to PNA members in four years. In 2010, skipjack tuna caught in this region of the Pacific was valued at US\$1.9 billion, with only US\$60 million of that going to PNA nations. The total skipjack revenue for 2013 is estimated at about \$3.9 billion, with the PNA share rising to \$249 million. With fishing day fees rising to \$6,000 this year, PNA’s share of fishing revenue is expected to rise again.

But the vessel day scheme is only one part of PNA’s program for increasing benefits from the fishing industry for islands in the Pacific. Late in 2013, the first sustainably-caught PNA Pacifical-labeled canned tuna hit the market in Austria. This product will command a higher price because it meets strict sustainability requirements enforced by the Marine Stewardship Council, which certified “free school” caught skipjack tuna in PNA waters. Free school means tuna that is caught without using fish aggregating devices.

“PNA and has attained Marine Stewardship Council certification for free school skipjack that demonstrates that our fishery and ecosystem is sustainable,” said Aqorau. “This is a world first. The MSC eco-label is widely known as being the most rigorous, science based assessment of the sustainability of the whole fishery.”

With numerous wholesale and retail food importers in Europe wanting MSC-certified skipjack from PNA waters, PNA anticipates larger volumes of free school tuna

being marketed in Europe in 2014, said Aqorau.

Concerns about overfishing of bigeye, a tuna prized for sashimi and sushi markets, led PNA to lobby the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission to adopt cutbacks in fishing effort for bigeye at its December annual meeting. Although the Commission members, who include the major distant water fishing nations as well as Pacific members, did not endorse adoption of a PNA conservation measure, they did approve conservation measures that will reduce the bigeye catch, said Aqorau.

“Our objective was to halt over-fishing of bigeye,” he said. “We’re not there yet.”

But, he adds, there are new limits on the number of fishing

vessels that can enter the Pacific, and agreements on reducing effort targeting bigeye.

A key concern for PNA members is what Aqorau describes as the “disproportionate burden” of conservation on the islands. Conservation measures such as the four-month ban on using fish aggregating devices in PNA waters impact domestic fleets of the islands more than distant water fishing nations because domestic fleets tend to fish within the islands’ 200 mile exclusive economic zones, while distant water fleets go elsewhere to fish.

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission adopted resolutions at its December meeting that require the Commission to take into account develop-

ment aspirations of small island development states when it considers conservation measures. This includes the issue of disproportionate burden, which Aqorau believes will give the islands greater leverage in negotiating these issues with distant water fishing nations that are members of the Commission.

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement are eight Pacific Island countries that control the world’s largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery supplying 50 percent of the world’s skipjack tuna (a popular tuna for canned products). They are Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. (*PNA*)

## Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

### Floor Attendant (3)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for ensuring that the gaming machines floor operate smoothly and for providing a high degree of courteous service to guests during their entertainment experience. Assist the Gaming Floor Supervisor in maintaining the highest standards of efficiency, security and customer satisfaction.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a gaming floor attendant or game room customer service or any combination of experience, education and/or training where gaming operations or gaming floor attendant skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

### Cashier (3)

**Position Summary:** Conduct financial transactions for patrons/guests. Exchange coins, tokens, and chips for patrons' money. Issue payoffs and obtain customer's signature on receipt. Count funds and reconcile daily summaries of transactions to balance books. Convert gaming checks, coupons, tokens, or coins to currency for gaming patrons. Maintain cage security. Maintain confidentiality of customers' transactions. Use cash register or computer to record transactions.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a game room cashier or casino cash desk operations or any combination of experience, education and/or training where financial transactions for patrons/guest skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

### Surveillance Operator

**Position Summary:** Responsible for video observation of all aspects of the e-gaming/digital lounge operation and the reporting of all irregular or illegal activities.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a surveillance operator or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

### Security Officer

**Position Summary:** Responsible for the safety and well being of guests and fellow employees and protection of company property. Regularly provides escorts of money and persons in money-handling positions. Patrols all sections of property to identify safety hazards and breaks in security. Enforces all company policies and procedures. Maintains and enforces internal security regulations.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a security or police officer or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

### Bartender

**Position Summary:** Responsible for operating and maintaining the e-gaming/digital lounge bar during the shift ensuring that the bar, equipment and stock is maintained and cleaned. Ensure that all stock levels are adequate. Mix and serve drinks to patrons, directly or through waitstaff

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a bartender. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have in depth knowledge about wines, spirits, cocktails and other drink ingredients. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

### Waiter – Waitress (3)

**Position Summary:** Take orders and serve food and beverages to customers at tables and all other areas of the e-gaming/digital lounges. Regularly check customers to ensure they are enjoying their food and beverages and take action to correct any problems. Prepare checks or receipts that itemize and total meals/beverages costs.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a waiter/waitress. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Ability to communicate effectively with customers, guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

### Guest Services/Marketing Supervisor (1)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for development and execution of marketing, budget and promotional campaigns. Structure and maintain effective VIP and guest services department. Ensure full support is given to junkets, premium players and VIP's visiting the e-gaming/digital lounge. Market the e-gaming/digital lounge internationally and develop and maintain customer contacts in target markets. Ensure effective liaison between guest services and other departments. Identify, develop, or evaluate marketing strategy, based on knowledge of establishment objectives, market characteristics and other relevant factors. Formulate, direct as well as coordinate marketing activities plus policies to promote products and services, working with advertising promotion managers.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 year experience working in a casino guest services department as a guest service/marketing supervisor or e-gaming clubs promoting gaming entertainment and services. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have in depth knowledge about marketing strategies. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

**Compensation:** All positions will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

**Job Location:** Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

**Application:** Applications may be obtained from the HR Office of Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The detailed job description & KSA and benefits for each position is available for review by applicants. Deadline for submission of completed applications is January 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms  
(Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749  
Attorney for Plaintiff

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### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, ) Civil Action  
Plaintiff, ) No. 12-0047  
vs. )  
CHARLES D. BODDY, ) **NOTICE OF**  
and FELICIDAD C. BODDY, ) **AUCTION and**  
Defendants. ) **JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 13th day of November, 2012, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 30th day of January, 2014 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 345 R 454, (formerly part of original lot 345 R 162), in Sinapalo Village, Rota, containing an area of 955 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 17, the original of which was registered on September 18, 1992, as Document No. 923063, and also recorded on October 23, 1992 as Document No. 323395 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

#### Terms and Conditions of Sale.

**1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

**2. Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 6702347859; Fax: 6702347859; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

**3. Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

**4. Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

**5. Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 19th day of November, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms  
(Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
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Attorney for Plaintiff

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Case Number: 120241CV Rosie Ada

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, ) Civil Action  
Plaintiff, ) No. 12-0241  
vs. )  
JUANA J. CASTRO, ) **NOTICE OF**  
Defendant. ) **AUCTION and**  
 ) **JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 23rd day of April, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 30th day of January, 2014 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. H744, (part of original 74R2, AH 74), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2058/84, the original of which was recorded 05 JUN 85 as Document No. 85 1062 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

#### Terms and Conditions of Sale.

**1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

**2. Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 6702347859; Fax: 6702345749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

**3. Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

**4. Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

**5. Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 19th day of November, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms  
(Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
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Fax: (670) 234-5749  
Attorney for Plaintiff

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Case Number: 130012CV Glenn Maratita

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, ) Civil Action  
Plaintiff, ) No. 13-0012  
vs. )  
ROBERT M. CALVO, ) **NOTICE OF**  
Defendant. ) **AUCTION and**  
 ) **JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 20th day of March, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 30th day of January, 2014 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 345 R 247, situated in Sinapalo I, Rota, containing an area of 858 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 05, dated May 11, 1984.

#### Terms and Conditions of Sale.

**1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

**2. Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 6702347859; Fax: 6702345749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

**3. Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

**4. Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

**5. Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 19th day of November, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



# Navy releases identity of drowning victim

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Rjay Domondon, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, has been identified as the service member who drowned while spear fishing near Agat Jan. 5.

The sailor's next of kin was notified at approximately 11:35am, Jan. 6 Guam time.

Domondon's body was found early Jan. 6 and transported to Naval Hospital Guam. Guam Fire Department, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 conducted search-and-rescue missions on Jan. 5-6.

"This young man was a dedicated, personable and highly motivated Sailor," said Cmdr. Gregory Leland, HSC-25 commanding officer. "Always willing to go the extra step to assist others, he earned the immediate respect of every sailor he came in contact with. He was a courageous young man who embodied

living life to its fullest and enjoyed working out, playing sports, and traveling."

Domondon, from Waterbury, Conn., joined the Navy in July 2012. Prior to reporting to the helicopter squadron on Guam in August 2013 as an aviation electronics technician, he was assigned to Recruit Training Command Great

Lakes, Naval Air Technical Training Center Pensacola and Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit North Island. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Domondon was 19 years old. *(Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office)*

## DPS sets emergency vehicle parking rules



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New Department of Public Safety regulations now require all marked emergency vehicles to be parked facing away from the DPS Central Office in Susupe.

In an effort to increase the response of police officers to complaints, the Department of Public Safety's Police Division has put in place regulations that require all marked emergency vehicles to be parked facing away from the DPS Central Office in Susupe.

DPS would like motorists to be aware of this situation

so they approach the building and surrounding parking areas cautiously, so that accidents don't occur if an officer needs to leave the parking lot in haste. Also, when approaching the office area on the roadway, be cautious that officers will be backing their vehicles into the parking spots so traffic may need to

halted to accommodate.

Also, the parking spots adjacent to the office are for marked emergency vehicles only. DPS asks citizens who are visiting the offices to park in either the parking lot west of the office building or to the north at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles parking lot. *(DPS)*

absolutely incredible to come home, and say that I am able to support my family. This is all thanks to WIA, Commissioner Mafnas, my family, and my fellow corrections officers for all their encouragement throughout these challenging months. WIA has blessed two other corrections officers with employment, and the answer to my initial question is 'Yes. I was able to find employment as soon as possible,' and the WIA team helped to make that happen! So with the deepest regards and utmost gratitude I thank you WIA for helping a Marine veteran feel right at home."

Aside from Taisakan, Flores, and Deleon Guerrero, an additional seven of the total 35 graduates are WIA participants.

"On behalf of [WIA] and the entire Department of Labor, we congratulate all cadets on their accomplishments and wish them all the best in their new careers," said a Labor Department statement. *(DOL)*

## 400 happy children in paradise

As part of its promotions for the holiday season, the Marianas Visitors Authority gave away over 400 Saipan-da backpacks to visiting children arriving at Francisco C. Ada International Airport on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

All passengers arriving on Dec. 24 and 25, 2013, were greeted by a life-size Saipan-da and two Chamorritas. Children ages 11 and younger received backpacks of the character, which is well-known in Japan and loved by children from all Asian countries.

"The annual holiday backpack giveaway is busy two days for Saipan-da, but he's always happiest making children smile," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "By that account, this year's giveaway was a grand success."

Saipan-da is a well-known, panda-like character, helping potential visitors remember the destination name Saipan. *(MVA)*

## WIA participants complete Corrections Academy



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, new corrections officers Koji Taisakan, Audrea Flores, and Cris Deleon Guerrero.

Workforce Investment Agency participants Koji Taisakan, Audrea Flores, and Cris Deleon Guerrero completed the 3rd Corrections Academy and were sworn into duty as correction officers on Dec. 23, 2013, during the graduation ceremony at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Deleon Guerrero grabbed the Top Gun

award.

According to Taisakan: "There was a thought that ran through my mind as I pictured myself on Saipan. That thought was a question. I asked myself, 'Will I be able to find employment as soon as possible?' I have a family, a remarkable wife, and our miracle baby boy for whom I must provide. My

life was placed at a standstill until the topic of Workforce Investment Agency emerged. So I gave it a shot. And within a month I was enrolled at the Department of Corrections 3rd Academy, and three months later I am now a Department of Corrections officer. What an accomplishment I have fulfilled with the aid of WIA. It feels

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 8, 2006

### \$6.9M food stamps issued

The Nutrition Assistance Program issued more than \$6.9 million worth of food stamps in the CNMI in fiscal year 2005, based on the program's recently issued summary of expenditures. The report also shows an increase of 695 in the number of households receiving food stamps during the fiscal year. The report showed that, in fiscal year 2005—covering the period from October 2004 to September 2005—the program released \$6,955,411 worth of food assistance to needy members of the CNMI community. NAP administrator Walter I. Macaranas said Friday the outflow of benefits show an increase in the numbers every year.

### Yumul: Still part of House leadership

Rep. Ray Yumul said yesterday that he remains a member of the House leadership and still considers himself a part of the Covenant Party. "I'm still with the Covenant Party. I'm still a member of the leadership," Yumul stressed in an interview. The congressman, who won his re-election bid as an independent candidate in the Nov. 5 elections, admitted that he expressed his desire to become the vice speaker but he respects his colleagues' decision to give the post to Democratic Party congressman Justo Quitugua. "My ambition for vice speaker ended when members supported Rep. Quitugua during a caucus two weeks ago. I have no issues with that now," said Yumul.

January 8, 2007

### 'No soft landing in sight for NMI'

With an impending federalization of the CNMI and the departure of the garment industry, plus other economic woes, the CNMI is certainly headed for a difficult landing, according to visiting Office of Insular Affairs deputy assistant secretary David B. Cohen. Even now, he said that "the steady downsizing of the garment industry had been dragging the CNMI economy down to a hard landing." And the impending federalization of the minimum wage might just give the fatal blow to the struggling industry. "This could very likely result in a complete and immediate exodus of what's left of Saipan's garment industry," he said.

### Chamber president stresses need for shared responsibility

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Juan T. Guerrero stressed the need for shared responsibility and urgent action in solving the CNMI's problems during an installation dinner for the business group's new set of officers on Friday. Guerrero, also chosen as the Saipan Chamber's 2006 Businessperson of the Year, said that it is imperative for the Commonwealth to stop being reactive and start being proactive. "For the past few decades, the Commonwealth's economic landscape was highly dependent on external forces. ... While we welcomed and enjoyed the hundreds of millions of dollars being infused into our stream of commerce, little was done collectively to protect the sustainability of that precious windfall. ... We allowed ourselves to remain at the whim of external forces instead of taking control of our economic destiny," Guerrero said.

January 8, 2008

### 15th fails to pass budget

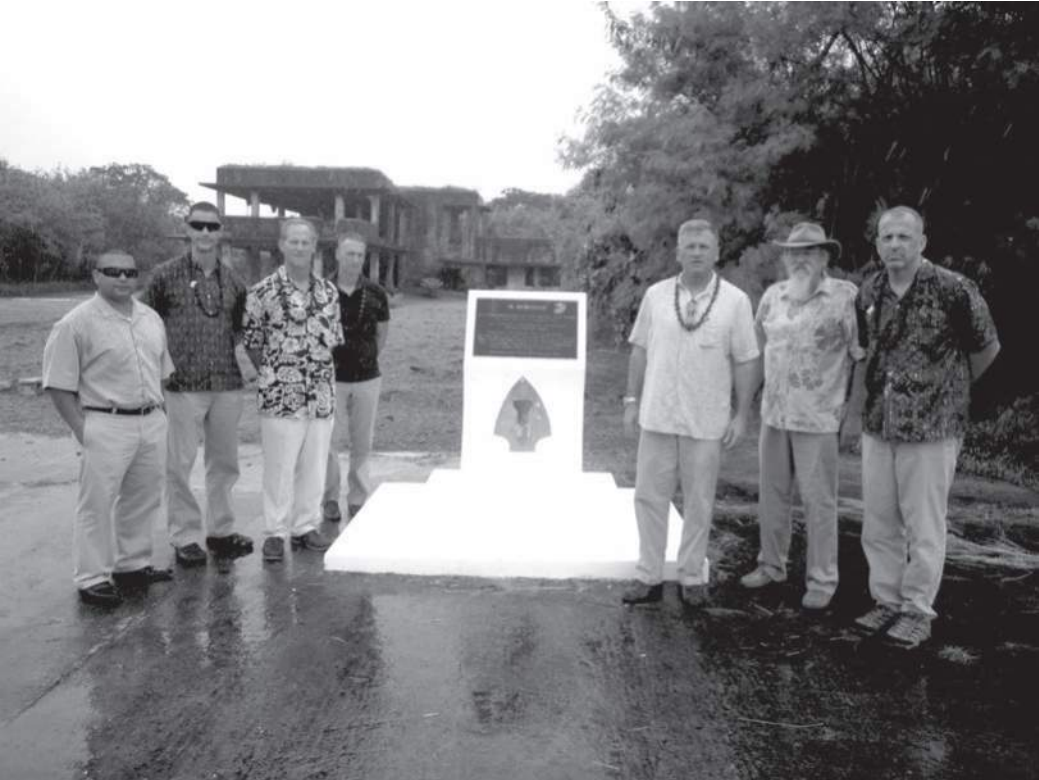
The Senate is deferring action on the fiscal year 2008 budget until the new Legislature assumes office next week. Floor leader Felix Mendiola said the senators have agreed to delay the budget until after they all come back for the 16th Legislature. "There are just too many issues we need to discuss, and we do not have enough time to do that during this term," said Mendiola, who is also the chairman of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs. House Speaker Oscar M. Babauta said he is disappointed, but respects the senators' decision.

### \$9M diverted to CUC since emergency

Some \$9 million has been reprogrammed to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. since the state of emergency declaration. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said in a report to the Legislature that \$2.5 million was taken from Commonwealth funds to ensure fuel delivery to CUC on Dec. 15, 2007. Affected government agencies shared a prorated amount of the \$2.5 million expense. With the consent of the U.S. Interior Department, another \$6.5 million in capital improvement funds was reprogrammed for emergency power plant renovation.



# Island Snapshots



**TINIAN VISITOR**

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Michael G. Dana, right, director for Strategic Planning and Policy, U.S Pacific Command, is joined by Maj. Chris Merrill, USMC, Operations Officer Marine Corps Activity Guam; Rear Adm. Tilghman D. Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas; Colonel P. J. Zimmerman, commanding officer, Marine Corps Activity Guam, and Don Farrell, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz's chief of staff, for a photo opportunity at a memorial on Tinian during his visit to the island on Jan. 5, 2014.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Michael G. Dana, right, director for Strategic Planning and Policy, U.S Pacific Command, visited Tinian on Sunday morning, Jan. 5, to meet with Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, to view the facilities at Tinian West Field International Airport, Tinian Harbor, and Tinian's leased lands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A couple of volunteers continue to help in the cleanup despite early Saturday morning's slight drizzle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PDM Promoters volunteers make sure drainages along Micro Beach Road are clear of dried leaves and trash.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT**

Happy birthday to beautiful Janelle Santiago! Have a million smiles today and let your heart be filled with love! Greetings from your family and friends!



**PASEO CLEANUP**

Volunteers of PDM Promoters' monthly cleanup of Paseo de Marianas pose in front of a pickup truck filled with the 980 lbs of trash they collected Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Four Saipan Awaodori Team members sweep dried leaves and trash on the side of the road in front of Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan during last Saturday's monthly cleanup of PDM Promoters, Inc.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 5Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

By JANE HARMAN  
Los Angeles Times

Jane Harman, former representative of California's 36th Congressional District, is the head of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



## We need to build bridges to those most vulnerable to radicalization

What turns people into terrorists? That question might sound simplistic, but it's at the heart of the struggle to prevent terrorist attacks. Take a look at some of the people who have tried to do us harm in the last few years.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, son of a wealthy banker, grew up in Nairobi, attended boarding school and college, and lived in an expensive London neighborhood. Chat room posts show that he worried about his school test scores and about girls—and felt lonely. He traveled to Yemen between high school and college to study Arabic. His classmates at University College London described him as quiet, easy to overlook. He tried to detonate explosives hidden in his underwear while onboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253, Christmas Day, 2009.

Najibullah Zazi, born in Afghanistan in 1985, lived in Pakistan before moving to New York with his family when he was 14. Zazi attended a local mosque and dropped out of Flushing High School, and worked at the family's coffee-and-doughnut cart near Wall Street. In his early 20s, he traveled to Pakistan for an arranged marriage, fathered two children and traveled back to New York to work but wound up deeply in debt. Zazi tried to join the Taliban in 2008; al-Qaida recruited him instead. In 2009, he headed to New York from Colorado with the makings of a bomb intended for the New York subway.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev was an angry young man who, according to the Boston Globe, told his mother he heard voices in his head. He never managed to achieve his own idea of the American dream, and instead turned to a radical form of Islam adopted by fighters in Dagestan, his homeland. In 2013, Tsarnaev and his brother were accused of bombing the Boston Marathon.

These sketches show that moving from radical beliefs (which are protected under the Constitution) to willingness to engage in violence is a highly individualized process. There is no one way to get there, no specific belief that causes someone to turn. It's also difficult to separate psychological issues from political motives. Add the Internet to the problem—a perfect vehicle for, among other things, stoking anger—and we've got a really big challenge.

The government has identified common "triggers," including economic and social patterns, and yet it is still nearly impossible to identify the troubled individuals who become violent.

So if there's no road map for clearly identifying individuals who will become violent, we need to employ the best tools we know of to counter radicalizing messages and to build bridges to the vulnerable.

See WE NEED on next page



JOHN KERRY'S MIDDLE EAST BREAKTHROUGH

## A shopping mall

There's the Mall of America (currently in the Polar Vortex) in Minneapolis, and the Mall of Asia by the Bay in Manila, but Hong Kong is one big tropical mall of a city that entices everyone to open their wallets. The city lives 24/7 to make and access the social and physical value represented by the Hong Kong dollar.

Put simply, the coolie and the nanny, the necktied banker and the harried taxi driver, the numerous salesgirls and the proud street sweepers, and all others within the urban triangle at the mouth of the Pearl River, from Xianggang (HK) to the outskirts of Guangzhou (Canton) to Aomen (Macau), get going in the 24-hour cycle of a metropolis that does not ever sleep, hustle in earnest in search of the currencies issued by the Hong Kong-Shanghai Banking Corp., the Bank of China, and the Standard Charter Bank.

Our latest visit to Hong Kong a week ago showed a terrain more bustling than it was in the '70s when we frequented a tenement home on Kowloon's Ship Kip Mei and a Hakka village in the New Territories' Sai Kung.

I was in the staff of NT's Nam Wai all-community approach Human Development Project. A resort developer came calling and the smart villagers sold their real estate for a hefty price. The grateful community presented a Rolex watch to one of our resident volunteers; a daughter let me steer her dad's Mercedes when I visited them in the SF Bay Area where they migrated.

A Canadian colleague and I this past week took a commercial half-day tour of former familiar places on Victoria Island. Aberdeen with its famed floating restaurants was our first stop.

I visited Aberdeen in the '70s. It only had a one-street promenade that had a few tall buildings, one owned by a family who manufactured some of Hallmark's votive candles. When I visited the factory, I expected no more than 10 workers in a storefront melting paraffin wax to a mold. The business was in fact a multi-faceted concern that occupied the multi-story building, even providing munitions material for Vietnam. The owner's family name is Lam, residents of exclusive Pok Fu Lam Rd, our clue then that the business was more than just a dismissible one-line entry on a bank ledger.

Aberdeen was a floating fishing village populated by Tanka boat people who cleaned the daily catch in the channel. Now, the ladies steer their sampans for tourists (at extra cost from basic tour fee) while navigating their boats around sleek yachts of the rich and the infamous. The fishing had since moved elsewhere.

A jewelry shop in the Aberdeen industrial zone was next stop. No doubt the gold and jade, pearl and silver necklaces and pendants engaged skilled workers and were guaranteed quality but the operation was marketed hard to captive audiences and was personnel heavy, adding cost to what was already too rich for my pocketbook. Chinese tourists, consumers of things glitzy, were

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

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loose with their credit cards.

Deep Water and Repulse Bays were next sights but the tour did not make a stop since the draw card of the area was gawking at expensive dwellings and drooling over Ferraris. A tall condo built between the shore and a steep hill has an architectural gap reportedly big enough for a helicopter to fly through in films. But it is the astronomic cost per sq. m. that made us recall how the whole of NYC's Manhattan and the golden mile off Chicago's lakefront are now only affordable to the U.S. 1 percent! Residents include many expats on company-paid dwellings.

Stanley Market, a day market, was next stop. I zipped my back pocket tight to keep my wallet in place. The shops did not differ from all the tourist traps I've been through, colorful and aerosol fresh so I window-shopped, letting all the cute and affordable t-shirts remain hanging, the knick-knacks and trinkets resplendent on display, but left the limited HK\$ secured.

The apex of the tour was Victoria Peak, long the end destination of the HK tram if one came directly from HK's Central District. The view of the city's skyline is still fantastic, as it was more than a decade ago when we last viewed the sight, but they had added more buildings since, and for HK\$40 more, one offers a roundabout view in one place. I walked round the old public vantage points.

Tsim Sha Tsui's waterfront back in Kowloon, our tour's pickup and drop-off point, offered a view of the legal fireworks set to go up an hour before and after New Year's midnight. Not unlike taking a photo near Bruce Lee's statue in front of a clear photo billboard of Victoria's skyline to avoid the real but hazy one, a lot of Hong Kong was costly artifice, a really spruced-up mall.

The crowd that watched New Year's fireworks poured out of public transport, gathering as early as 6pm since many thoroughfares closed early. The MRT ran 'til 3am for the revelers.

I stayed in Tai Kok Tsui in West Kowloon's Mong Kok area where the low-income folks come out to eat and shop before midnight, occasionally lighting up banned firecracker in alleys, but are foundational to fanciful and fashionable Hong Kong. I felt at home with my hoi polloi; kept company with them into 2014!



## Political fireworks

**H**ave kept my ears to the ground listening to political garb. The fractious factions or realignment of incumbents posturing for survival has begun. It's analogous to hermit crabs squeezing into larger shells, hoping the new home fits like fully tailored suits.

So far the latest murmur from mini-camps have been very interesting. Nothing is earth-shattering, though fodder for amusement. A certain group looks forward to the challenge while another ponders if it's worth it, exhausted. Still another quizzes if it should be a spoiler.

In a short while we should be able to see the official emergence of all candidates for the most coveted seat on the islands. Each is like a fish with a head, body, and tail. We ought to see which would be fished out of the water to lead rebuilding the decimated or destroyed livelihood of simple villagers NMI-wide.

With voter sophistication manifested in the last midterm election, this year's general election ought to see major shift in the sentiment of the people. In its quiet ways, voters are ready to dispose of its sentiment come November. Incumbents must have something better than lackluster performance lest they seal their self-inflicted political doom. There's a lot of fodder for comedy script as the political mercury spins out of control.

May you live in "interesting times" after the election dust settles quietly this November.

### Kilili two years late on Nobamacare

Our illustrious Delegate Kilili fancy-footed with his explanation of the exclusion of the CNMI in the fraud-laden Nobamacare law. Furthermore, his ill-fated explanation is two years late!

Sir, it's sad listening to families who have opted to drop health insurance policies because it's too steep for their meager income. Its increase is a whopping 40 percent and it isn't helping retirees either whose pension was cut by 25 percent last year. The cost of medication has also gone up by another 40 percent. So retirees and employees must navigate how much of the deductibles they must pay through the nose. This as other costs pile up, robbing families

of their buying power while salaries remain basically the same or stagnant. Where's leadership on this score? Or do we settle for more of the same as victims of mediocrity?

Some of those who would drop their health premiums aren't likely recipients for Medicaid—a program designed for the poor. So who picks up their expenses when they have to report to the ER? How do we navigate recent spikes in deductibles when 25 percent of retirees' pension was cut since last year? Isn't this a significant issue to ward off Nobamacare? Are we as U.S. citizens supposed to swallow Obama's egregiously miscalculated health system that has ruined the health industry full square?

The impending increase in food commodities is another issue that would further compromise the buying power of people all over. Hello? Anybody home? Did legislators forget that they were elected and tasked to work on Capital Hill and not in the golden skies of the Pacific, junketing on taxpayers' expense or some weird freebie?

The collective negligence has forced many of the people you've ignored to buckle down counting pennies, nickels, and dimes. What's your contribution to ease the misery they have to endure in the deepening economic mess? Oops! Lest we forget, this year's election is no walk in the park either.

### Eyes on cost of living

Simple folks all over the archipelago are yearning for leadership to ease the teething troubles of increases that has robbed them of their buying power. It's known as the "cost of living" or sparks of costly explosions ripping family pocketbooks throughout the archipelago.

The suffering and unbearably miserable hardship had the multitude yearning for help from the hill. Isn't leadership about attending to the needs of others? It's all about the people you represent in our government institutions, isn't it? What's your performance rating on substantive issues?

Have you ably and promptly listened to the voice of your people searching for decent answers, struggling to ward off increases in health premiums and medication by 40 percent? What about the

### By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*



impending increase in food and power bills while family income remains the same or stagnant since recent past? Is leadership up to the task to fix the deepening economic mess at home?

Understandably, revenue generation has gone Deep South while obligations spiral upwards beyond what's available in local coffers. There's the scramble to find \$12 million to meet settlement agreement on pension pay, \$11 million to pay off DB plan members' withdrawal, \$8 million to defray government share in the increase in health cost, and \$18 million to pay off utilities owed CUC.

The added cost against employees and retirees is a whopping 65 percent-plus as the former simultaneously struggles with pension pay cut of 25 percent. This is no fun walk in the park of filial bankruptcy. Families still must deal with making timely payment of the first family home. Otherwise a lot of them would simply pack up and leave home sooner than later. Remember the 3,000-plus locals who relocated elsewhere in the last two years, prompted by dire economic conditions at home?

Perhaps the "voice of experience" has met its challenge but can't fathom the dizzying discrepancy of obligations spiraling upwards while revenue heads in the other direction. I fear the day when the entire archipelago is torched by the merciless magma of bankruptcy. It's a bad economic indicator that sends goosebumps up my neck.

The deepening economic disaster forces many families to start intoning, "Lullaby and Good Night" as life in paradise turns into one unbearable hellish hole. Need it be this way?

## The sixth year is often tough, but Obama could triumph

**T**he sixth year of a two-term presidency is rarely kind.

The public's initial romance with the president has faded. The brief momentum he thought he earned by winning re-election has faded too. The White House doesn't set the agenda any more; events are in charge now.

For many presidents—Richard M. Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton—this was the point when the scandals took over. President Obama has run into his share of controversies, but none that quite reached scandalhood. (Does anyone even remember the IRS flap?) But the calamitous launch of Obama's health-care plan has had the same confidence-sapping effect.

And if the past is any predictor, Obama's plight is likely to get worse before it gets better. The midterm congressional election has almost always taken seats from the second-term president's party, making his job even harder.

So what are the chances Obama can defy the historical pattern and turn his sixth year into a success?

The obvious portents don't look good. The president begins 2014 with his popularity near an all-time low in every poll. The health-care mess has shaken voters' confidence in his competence and his credibility, and those problems aren't going away soon. "There are still a million pitfalls to manage," a White House aide told me last week, listing healthcare implementation at the top of the administration's to-do list. If the congressional election were held this month, Republicans might well gain the six seats they need to win a majority in the Senate and control both houses of Congress.

Still, there are reasons to believe Obama's Year 6 won't be the disaster his critics predict.

First, the economy is finally recovering in earnest from the Great Recession. A spate of forecasts have predicted growth around a healthy 3 percent this year, with unemployment slowly declining to 6.5 percent.

Presidents get blamed for bad economic news—but they also get credit for good economic news, whether they deserve it or not. And

if the recovery brings unemployment down, that will deprive Republicans of one of their main arguments for turning Democrats out of office.

Another potential plus for Obama is that he has finally settled on a central theme that appeals to independent voters as well as Democrats: economic fairness. "Over the course of the next year ... that's where you should expect my administration to focus all our efforts," the president said last month. "The economy is stronger than it has been in a very long time; our next challenge is to make sure that everybody benefits from that, and not just a few."

In that vein, Obama plans to wage a major battle to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. The minimum wage is a classic wedge issue, with Democrats and independents supporting Obama's position, but GOP voters divided.

Obama's other big domestic priority, immigration reform, works that way too. If he can steer bipartisan legislation through Congress, he'll take credit. If Republicans block a path to citizenship for immigrants in the country illegally, he'll make sure they get the blame—especially among Latino voters.

The administration even has reason to hope that opinion on Obamacare, the Affordable Care Act, will shift as millions of once-uninsured people begin to use their new insurance (or their newly won Medicaid).

If their experiences are positive, that could undercut a plan by Rep. Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., and others to unveil GOP alternatives to Obamacare. As the president warned last month: "If it were to be repealed, you would be taking away all those benefits from folks who already are enjoying them."

Foreign policy could also provide a boost thanks to an event that has long been on Obama's calendar: the withdrawal of most of the remaining 47,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Expect a long series of homecoming ceremonies with flags, marching bands, tearful family reunions—and speeches by Obama reminding voters that he's fulfilled his 2008 promise to end two wars.

This sort of direct, across-boundaries interaction is crucial, but by itself, it's not going to win the "argument" with the next generation of terrorists. We need communities and local police to tell us when someone is starting to drift toward forms of behavior that are illegal. Communities are a form of human intervention to counter the recruiter on the other side.

In the United States, the issue of local law enforcement relations with the Muslim community is a sensitive one: In New York, the interface has led to allegations of profiling and unjustified surveillance. But done right, it can work. Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, for example, has used positive outreach through the local Muslim American Homeland Security Congress to increase cooperation between Muslims and law enforcement.

### By DOYLE MCMANUS

*Los Angeles Times*

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The administration is also trying to negotiate a nuclear deal with Iran (difficult), peace between Israel and the Palestinians (even more difficult) and an end to the civil war in Syria (next to impossible). A win on any would be an unexpected success.

Finally, 2014 is an election year, and Obama has always been better at campaigning than governing.

The president and his allies will be trying to draw the sharpest contrasts they can—on the minimum wage, immigration, healthcare, climate change and everything else—to energize Democratic voters. So the year on

Capitol Hill is likely to be dominated by high-decibel collisions, not bipartisan harmony. If tea party Republicans rise to Obama's bait as they have in the past, the GOP could suffer in the eyes of many voters.

There's no guarantee, of course, that things will play out the way Obama would like. Another standoff over the debt ceiling this spring could damage both parties. Obamacare could run into new problems. Foreign policy could turn into a list of failures.

But the president has one bittersweet asset on his side: Unlike during his heady early years in office, expectations for 2014 are low. If he can survive Year 6 with a healthy economy, healthcare intact, the Senate in Democratic hands and no new disasters, that will look like success and enable him to live and fight another day.

### WE NEED

*From Page 10*

Articulating the narrative about what the United States stands for is the first task, and so far, we seem to have had a hard time making the sale. But recent State Department efforts are promising. The Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications crafts Internet messages to counter extremism and to ask young people to turn away from terrorist groups. The best part of the program is that red tape has been cut: The team doesn't have to get approval for messages. They can react to extremist posts in real time using social media.

It's also crucially important in Minnesota, where there is a large population of Muslim Somalis. To counter the immigrants' fear of police, brought with them from Africa, St. Paul and Minneapolis officers host events like cookouts to build relationships and explain how the police function in those cities. These events build relationships and bridge cultural differences. St. Paul last year graduated its first Somali police officer—one of the community's own—from the academy.






We must make our case persuasively to others and isolate those who would cause us harm. Narratives can inspire people to do terrible things, or to push back against those extremist voices. Relying on the Internet alone to communicate a counter-narrative is insufficient: Many more strategies must be employed.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77

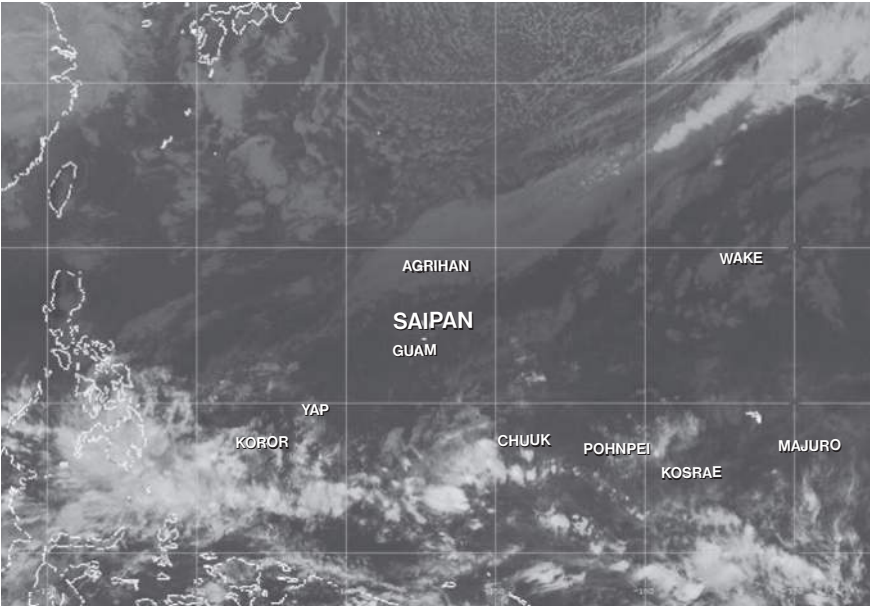
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 62
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 35 ▼ 17
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 59
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 66
London	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 44
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 46
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 53
Miami	Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 56
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 14 ▼ 10
Osaka	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 43
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 49
Pusan	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 26
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 44
Salem	Rain	▲ 44 ▼ 42
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 46
Seoul	Showers	▲ 38 ▼ 18
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 40
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 21 ▼ 16

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:49 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
1:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:23 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N163E to 20N154E, then continues as a shear line across the far Northern Mariana Islands at 18N146E to gradually end near 14N140E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 4N130E to a weak circulation south of Chuuk near 2N152E. Patchy areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are south of Yap across the Republic of Palau and southwest of Chuuk between 8N and 2N from 130E to 151E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls south of a line from 3N165E to 4N175E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:58 AM	-
Thursday	12:42 PM	12:42 AM
Friday	1:26 PM	1:34 AM
Saturday	2:11 PM	2:25 AM
Sunday	2:58 PM	3:16 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota  UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota  UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b> UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 D2102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)  D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM  UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam  UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM  OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM  DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 1020	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## Senate confirms Yellen to chair Federal Reserve

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate confirmed Janet Yellen on Monday as the first woman to lead the Federal Reserve, elevating an advocate of fighting unemployment and a backer of the central bank's efforts to spur the economy with low interest rates and massive bond purchases.

Yellen, 67, will replace Ben Bernanke, who is stepping down after serving as chairman for eight years dominated by the Great Recession and the Fed's efforts to combat it.

Senators confirmed her by 56-26, with numerous absences caused by airline flight delays forced by arctic temperatures

around much of the country. All 45 voting Democrats were joined by 11 Republicans in supporting Yellen, while 26 Republicans voted "no."

Vice chair of the Fed since 2010, Yellen begins her four-year term as leader of the century-old bank on Feb. 1. With the economy rebounding from the depths of the recession but only modestly so far, many economists expect her to focus on how to nurture growth without putting it into overdrive, which could risk fueling inflation.

"The big debate will be when the Fed should tighten and how much, rather than when to step

on the gas pedal and how hard," predicted Bill Cheney, chief economist for John Hancock Financial Services, who envisions a growing economy this year.

Under Bernanke, the Fed has driven short-term interest rates down to near zero and flushed money into the economy with huge bond purchases, which it has just started to ease. Yellen, a strong Bernanke ally, has supported those policies and is expected to continue them until concrete signs emerge of sustained improvement of the economy and job market.

In a written statement, President Barack Obama said Yel-

len's approval means "the American people will have a fierce champion" who will protect them.

"I am confident that Janet will stand up for American workers, protect consumers, foster the stability of our financial system and help keep our economy growing for years to come," Obama said.

Lobbyists for the banking and financial services sectors issued statements pledging to work with Yellen. Both industries have led a fight to water down restrictions imposed by Obama's 2010 law overhauling how the nation's financial sys-

tem is regulated.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Yellen previously headed the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, chaired President Bill Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers and has been an economics professor at the University of California at Berkeley.

Yellen, who as an academic has focused on unemployment and its causes, is considered a "dove" who wants the Fed more focused on creating jobs because unemployment is high and inflation is low. "Hawks" on these issues prefer a stronger emphasis on preventing inflation.



**Janet Yellen**

*First woman to chair the U.S. Federal Reserve*

### Early years

**Born** 1946, Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Education** Bachelor's in economics, Brown University, 1967; doctorate in economics, Yale University, 1971

**Family** Married to George A. Akerlof, a Nobel laureate in economics, one son

### Career

**1971-76** Assistant professor at Harvard University

**1978-80** Economist, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

**1994-97** Member of the Federal Reserve System's Board of Governors

**1997** Chair of President Bill Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers

**2004-10** President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

**2010** Named vice chair of the Federal Reserve System; began 14-year term as a member of the Federal Reserve Board

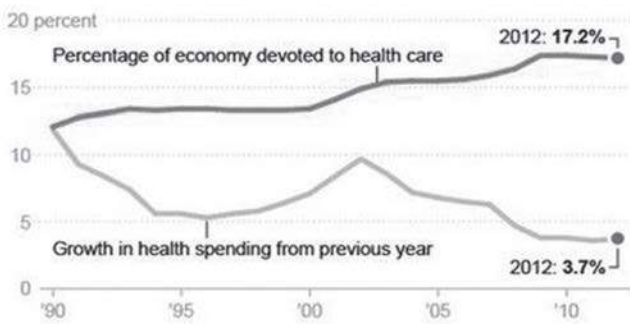
**2013** Nominated by President Barack Obama for Federal Reserve Chair; confirmed by the Senate Jan. 6

Source: Federal Reserve, AP, MCT Photo Service © 2014 MCT

## US marks 4 straight years of slowing health costs

### Health care growth remains slow

Growth in U.S. spending on health care remained under 5 percent for the fifth straight year, while the overall portion of the economy devoted to health care declined slightly.



SOURCE: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Even as his health care law divided the nation, President Barack Obama's first term saw historically low growth in health costs, government experts said in a new report Monday.

The White House called it vindication of the president's health care policies, but it's too early to say if the four-year trend that continued through 2012 is a lasting turnaround that Obama can claim as part of his legacy.

For the second year in a row, the U.S. economy grew faster in 2012 than did national health care spending, according to nonpartisan economic experts

at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

That's an important statistic. In most years, health care spending grows more rapidly than the economy, like bills that rise faster than your paycheck. That cost pressure steadily undermines employer insurance as well as government programs like Medicare and Medicaid. But the pattern slowed starting in 2009, and then appears to have reversed ever so slightly and tenuously.

"Have we turned the corner in a sustainable way? That's still an open question," said economist Robert Reischauer, who serves as a public trustee

overseeing Medicare and Social Security financing. "But I am more optimistic than I have ever been that fundamental changes are under way." For example, even though baby boomers are joining Medicare in record numbers, that program's costs are basically stable when measured on a per-patient basis, Reischauer noted.

Nonetheless, America still spends a whole lot. Monday's report found that the nation's health care tab reached \$2.8 trillion in 2012, the latest year available. Health care accounted for 17.2 percent of the economy, down from 17.3 percent in 2011.

## Delta retires last DC-9, oldest plane in US fleet

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Delta Air Lines is retiring its last DC-9s, the oldest passenger plane in the fleet of the big U.S. airlines.

Delta operated the final passenger flight from Minneapolis to Atlanta Monday evening.

McDonnell Douglas delivered the first DC-9s in 1965, and eventually built 976 of them. The plane was noteworthy at the time because it was small enough to fly to airports in smaller cities that had previously been served by propeller-driven planes. Its low-to-the-ground profile put its cargo door at about waist height, so ground crews at smaller airports could load it without special equipment.

The plane flew for Delta, Continental and several smaller regional airlines. The one flown on the final scheduled flight on Monday was built in 1978 and went to North Cen-

tral Airlines. Its fate after that mirrors the merger wave that rolled through the whole airline industry. A combination of North Central and other airlines formed Republic Airlines, which merged with Northwest Airlines in the 1980s. Delta bought Northwest in 2008.

Most airlines retired the DC-9s by the 1990s. But instead of retiring them, Northwest in 1995 refurbished their interiors to squeeze more flying out of them. Federal rules don't limit how many years a plane can fly, only how many takeoffs and landings. As long as it stayed under those limits, the DC-9s could keep flying.

At one time the planes made up almost one-third of Northwest's fleet. As of Monday Delta was down to its last six. It's keeping two planes as spares for a few more weeks.



A Delta Air Lines DC-9 taxis on the tarmac at Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport in Minneapolis, Monday, Jan. 6, 2014, before its final scheduled flight.

## Roberts refuses to grant Obamacare emergency stay

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court has refused a group of doctors' request to block implementation of the nation's new health care law.

Chief Justice John Roberts turned away without comment Monday an emergency stay request from the Association of American Physicians & Surgeons, Inc. and the Alliance for Natural Health USA.

They asked the chief justice Friday to temporarily block the law, saying Congress had passed it incorrectly by starting it in the Senate instead of the House. Revenue-raising bills are supposed to originate in the lower chamber. They also wanted blocked doctor registration requirements they say will make it harder for independent non-Medicare physicians to treat Medicare-eligible patients.

Still pending is a decision on a temporary block on the law's contraceptive coverage requirements, which was challenged by a group of nuns.

### STOCK

### PORTFOLIO



### LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,425.10	1,826.77	4,113.68
-44.89	-4.60	-18.23
-0.27%	-0.25%	-0.44%

### EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms		Hong Kong Dollar		Philippine Peso	
Australian Dollar	1.1207	Indian Rupee	63.3300	Singapore Dollar	1.2696
British Pound	0.6101	Indonesian Rupiah	12,175.0	South Korean Won	1,068.3
Canadian Dollar	1.0679	Japanese Yen	104.4650	Swiss Franc	0.9056
Chinese Yuan	6.0960	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2861	Taiwan Dollar	30.0850
Euro	0.7340	New Zealand Dollar	1.2107	Thailand Baht	33.1000



# Nation

## Most dangerous temps in decades push across US

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—The coldest, most dangerous blast of polar air in decades gripped the Midwest and pushed toward the East and South on Monday, closing schools and day care centers, grounding flights and forcing people to pull their hoods and scarves tight to protect exposed skin from nearly instant frostbite.

Many across the nation's midsection went into virtual hibernation, while others dared to venture out in temperatures that plunged well below zero.

"I'm going to try to make it two blocks without turning into crying man," said Brooks Grace, who was bundling up to do some banking and shopping in downtown Minneapolis, where temperatures reached 23 below, with wind chills of minus 48. "It's not cold—it's painful."

The mercury also dropped into negative territory in Milwaukee, St. Louis and Chicago, which set a record for the date at minus 16. Wind chills across the region were 40 below and colder. Records also fell in Oklahoma, Texas and Indiana.

Forecasters said some 187 million people in all could feel the effects of the "polar vortex" by the time it spread across the country on Monday night and Tuesday.

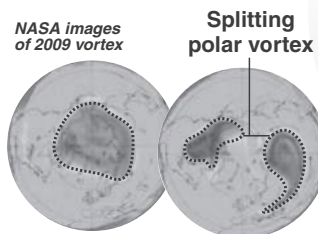
Record lows were possible in the East and South, with highs in the single digits expected Tuesday in Georgia and Alabama. Subzero wind chills were forecast up and down the coast, including minus 10 in Atlanta and minus 12 in Baltimore.

### A deep freeze

*Polar vortices occur seasonally at the North Pole with frigid polar winds circling the Arctic at more than 100 mph (160 kph).*

#### Polar vortex moving down

- 1 Spinning counterclockwise; winds trap cold Arctic air
- 2 Vortex weakens, splits apart
- 3 Arctic air moves south; system is not just cold air, but actual Arctic air
- 4 Vortex weakens, dissipates



NASA images of 2009 vortex

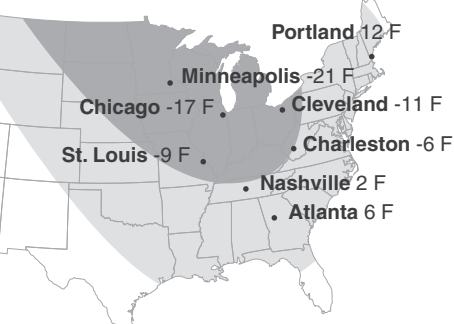


#### Why split?

- NOAA scientists have suggested that warming temperatures in the Arctic may be responsible for disrupting a vortex

#### Temperatures through Monday night

■ Below zero □ Frigid



Source: NOAA, Weather Underground, Weather Channel, NASA, AP  
Graphic: Melina Yingling

#### Record-breaking

- Some states experiencing 20-40 F below average; residents encouraged to stay inside
- Extreme cold temperatures can lead to frostbite, hypothermia
- More than 6,000 flights canceled or delayed

From the Dakotas to Maryland, schools and day care centers shut down.

"You definitely know when you are not wearing your thermal undergarments," said Staci Kalthoff, who raises cattle with her husband on a 260-acre farm in Albany, Minn., where the temperature hovered around 24

below zero and winds made it feel like minus 46. "You have to dress really, really warm and come in more often and thaw out everything."

Even with this nostril-freezing cold, the family still prefers winter over summer.

"You can always put on more layers," she said. "When

it gets hot, you can only take off so much."

For a big swath of the Midwest, the subzero cold moved in behind another winter wallop: more than a foot of snow and high winds that made traveling treacherous.

Several deaths were blamed on the snow, ice and cold since Saturday, including the death of a 1-year-old boy who was in a car that went out of control and collided with a snowplow Monday in Missouri.

It took authorities using 10-ton military vehicles known as "wreckers" until early Monday to clear all the chain-reaction accidents caused when several semis jackknifed along snowy interstates in southern Illinois. The crash stranded about 375 vehicles, but there were no fatalities or injuries, largely because motorists either stayed with their cars or were rescued and taken to nearby warming centers if they were low on gas or didn't have enough coats or blankets, said Jonathon Monken, director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Others got stuck in the snowdrifts, including the Southern Illinois men's basketball team, which had to spend the night in a church.

In the eastern United States, temperatures in the 40s and 50s Monday helped melt piles of snow from a storm last week, raising the risk that roads would freeze over as the cold air moved in Monday night, said Bob Oravec from the Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Md.

## Supreme Court puts Utah same-sex marriage on hold

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)**—Gay couples in Utah were thrown into legal limbo Monday as the U.S. Supreme Court put a halt to same-sex marriages in the state, turning jubilation to doubt just weeks after a judge's ruling sent more than a thousand couples rushing to get married.

The justices did not rule on the merits of the case or on same-sex marriage bans in general, leaving both sides confident they'll ultimately win. The decision stays in effect while the Denver-based 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals considers the long-term question of whether gay couples have a right to wed in Utah.

For those couples who just got married—or were planning their nuptials—the latest twist in the legal battle clouds what was seen as a cause for celebration.

"It feels like we are second-class citizens during the stay," said Moudi Sbeity, who is waiting to get married until the legal process plays out. "There's also the fear of the unknown of what might come next."

Sbeity and partner Derek Kitchen are among three couples who brought the Utah

lawsuit that led to the surprise Dec. 20 ruling by U.S. District Judge Robert Shelby, who said the state's ban on same-sex marriage violated gay and lesbian couples' constitutional rights.

State officials praised Monday's decision to put a hold on things, saying it should have come earlier. Two previous courts turned down their request for a stay.

"Clearly, the stay should have been granted with the original District Court decision in order to have avoided the uncertainty created by this unprecedented change," Gov. Gary Herbert said.

The Supreme Court's unsigned order did not indicate anyone dissented from the decision to halt same-sex marriages in Utah. Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who handles emergency appeals from Utah and the five other states in the 10th Circuit, turned the matter over to the entire court.

Many believe the Supreme Court will settle the issue for good. Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes said the court's decision indicates an interest in Utah's case, and he hopes the justices issue a final answer.

## 'Jihad Jane' gets 10 years in plot to kill artist

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—A troubled Pennsylvania woman who called herself "Jihad Jane" online and plotted to kill a Swedish artist was sentenced Monday to 10 years in prison after telling a judge she had been consumed by thoughts of a Muslim holy war.

Colleen LaRose, 50, faced a potential life term. But Chief U.S. District Judge Petrese B. Tucker gave her credit for her guilty plea and her help in the indictment of two others.

Prosecutors asked for decades in prison, fearing she remains highly vulnerable to manipulation. But LaRose told the judge, "I don't want to be into jihad no more."

LaRose became obsessed with the cause after meeting a Muslim man on vacation in Amsterdam, when she was out one night after a fight with her boyfriend, her lawyer said. She pursued it online when she returned to her home in rural Pennsburg, Pa., where she cared for the boyfriend's elderly father at home nearly full time.

"That's all I would think about is jihad, jihad, jihad," LaRose said Monday, telling her story for the first time in

court. "I was in a trance."

With her blond hair, blue eyes and U.S. passport, she forever changed the face of terrorism in the United States, prosecutors said.

"It was scary for many people to think that Ms. LaRose could be radicalized, just online, in the United States. She was lonely," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Arbittier Williams said. "There are other people like that out there in the country, and in the world."

Prosecutors said LaRose sought excitement through her shadow life and was flattered to be told to kill a foe of Islam.

"He honored me," LaRose said of her online handler in Pakistan. "I'm a sister. Sisters don't get these assignments. But later on, I realized that he may have taken advantage of me."

Defense lawyers called her the perfect target after a childhood marked by rape, incest, hunger and alcoholism at home. She was raped from the time she was 8, became a prostitute at 14 and lied about her age to marry a customer. Her marriages were marked by abuse, and she came to use crystal meth and other drugs, public defender Mark Wilson said.



LaRose



### UP, UP, AND AWAY!

A SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket with a commercial satellite aboard lights up the sky during a successful launch from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station as people line the boardwalk, Monday, Jan. 6, 2014, along the seashore in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

AP



# Asia

## Bangladesh leaders vie for power after marred vote

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)**—For two decades, the “Battling Begums” have been at the forefront of this South Asian nation’s politics, vying for power and trading insults in a poisonous rivalry.

Now the longstanding enmity between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia, both of whom earn the honorific “begum” for Muslim women of rank, is once again at the heart of the country’s latest political crisis.

On Monday, Hasina’s ruling Awami League party won one of the most violent elections in the country’s history, marred by street fighting, low turnout and a boycott by the opposition that made the results a foregone conclusion.

The political gridlock plunges Bangladesh deeper into turmoil and economic stagnation, and could lead to more violence in a deeply impoverished country of 160 million.

Some observers say the rivalry is standing in the way of progress and compromise.

“The economy is declining,

democracy is being weakened and Bangladesh’s march toward development is faltering,” said Hassan Shahriar, a political analyst in Bangladesh. “The latest election and the opposition violence linked to it shows how they could not care less about the people they say they want to serve.”

The Awami League won 232 of the 300 elected seats, the Election Commission said, far more than the 151 required to form a government. Because of the opposition boycott, about half the seats were uncontested, allowing the ruling party to rack up many victories.

Sunday’s vote was bloody: At least 18 people were killed as police fired at protesters, and opposition activists torched more than 100 polling stations. Three more people were killed Monday in lingering pockets of unrest.

In a sign of international skepticism over the legitimacy of the elections, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said Monday they “do not appear to credibly express the will of the Bangladeshi

people.” She urged the government and opposition parties to hold immediate dialogue on holding fresh elections as soon as possible, and called on all sides to desist from violence.

A statement from U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s office said he “regrets that the parties did not reach the kind of agreements which could have produced a peaceful, all-

inclusive election outcome.” The statement also called for “meaningful dialogue” among the parties.

Political violence has convulsed the country in recent

months as opposition activists staged attacks, strikes and transportation blockades to press their demands. Nearly 300 people have been killed since last February.



**BRRRRRR!**

An Afghan child holds his boots in a camp for the internally displaced on the outskirts of Mazar-e Sharif, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2014. Mazar-e Sharif has been experiencing below freezing weather and snow.

AP

## China destroys 6 tons of ivory in landmark move

**DONGGUAN, China (AP)**—China destroyed about 6 tons of illegal ivory from its stockpile on Monday in an unprecedented move wildlife groups say shows growing concern about the black market trade by authorities in the world’s biggest market for elephant tusks.

Authorities displayed a pile of ornaments, carvings and tusks to reporters, diplomats and conservationists before feeding them into two crushing machines. Tusks that were too long were cut up into smaller chunks by workers with circular saws before they could be pulverized.

Forestry and customs officials organized what they said was the country’s first large-scale ivory destruction in Dongguan in southern Guangdong province, where much of China’s ivory trade is focused.

Conservation groups say China is the world’s biggest market for ivory.

Demand is fueled by rapid growth in the world’s second biggest economy, which has created a vast middle class with the spending power to buy ivory carvings prized as status symbols.

Ivory can fetch up to \$2,000

a kilogram on the black market, earning it the nickname “white gold.”

Officials said the 6.1 metric tons of ivory destroyed was just a portion of the illegal ivory held by China, though they wouldn’t disclose how big the country’s total stockpile is. The destroyed ivory came from shipments from Africa intercepted by customs officers as well as from carving factories and shops in China.

China is following other countries that have destroyed their ivory stocks in the past year.

In June, the Philippines

burned and crushed more than 5 tons of ivory worth an estimated \$10 million confiscated since 2009, becoming the first Asian country to do so. In November, the United States destroyed 6 tons of ivory seized over 25 years. Gabon burned nearly 5 tons in 2012.

The United States, which sent officials to Monday’s ivory destruction, commended China. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said such actions “will send a powerful message to wildlife poachers and traffickers and to the consumers of illegal wildlife products.”

## Rodman, ex-NBA All Stars arrive in North Korea

**PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)**—Dennis Rodman said Monday that a game he and other former National Basketball Association players are planning in North Korea will be a “birthday present” for one of their most unlikely fans: leader Kim Jong Un.

Rodman’s squad—featuring ex-All Stars Kenny Anderson, Cliff Robinson and Vin Baker—will play against a team of North Koreans on Wednesday, which is believed to be Kim’s birthday. The former NBA play-

ers, who arrived in Pyongyang on Monday, also include Eric “Sleepy” Floyd, guard Doug Christie and Charles D. Smith, who played for the New York Knicks. Four streetball players also are on the squad.

Rodman told The Associated Press he was glad to be in North Korea for the game, though he said he has gotten death threats for his repeated visits. He said proceeds from the game would go to a charity for the deaf in North Korea.

“The marshal is actually trying to change this country in a great way,” Rodman said of Kim, using the leader’s official title. “I think that people thought that this was a joke, and Dennis Rodman is just doing this because fame and fortune.” Instead, he said, he sees the game as a “birthday present” for Kim and his country.

“Just to even have us here, it’s an awesome feeling. I want these guys here to show the world, and speak about North Korea in a great light,” he said.

“I hope people will have a different view about North Korea.”

NBA Commissioner David Stern issued a statement Monday night.

“The NBA is not involved with Mr. Rodman’s North Korea trip and would not participate or support such a venture without the approval of the U.S. State Department,” Stern said. “Although sports in many instances can be helpful in bridging cultural divides, this is not one of them.”

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Car bomb kills 3 police officers in Afghanistan

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—A provincial official in Afghanistan say a suicide car bomber has attacked a security checkpoint in the country’s east, killing three police officers. Musa Khan Akbarzada, the governor of Ghazni province, says the attack Monday also wounded three officers in the Shilghar district. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack in an email to journalists. Earlier, the Interior Ministry said police had apprehended a 10-year-old girl who had intended to carry out a suicide attack against Afghan border police in southern Helmand province. In a statement, the ministry said the girl claimed her brother, a local Taliban commander, had sent her on the mission.

#### Cambodia police free 5 activists held in crackdown

**PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)**—Cambodian police released five women activists who were detained earlier Monday after trying to petition the French Embassy for help in freeing anti-government protesters arrested last week. The five were picked up by plainclothes police on their way to the embassy, according to the local rights group LICADHO and the family of one of the women. Police released them hours later after they signed a document stating they would

not incite to protest or join demonstrations, said LICADHO activist Om Sam Ath.

#### Artillery shell explodes, kills 10 in NW Pakistan

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)**—A Pakistani government official says an explosion has killed 10 members of a family in a remote tribal region in the country’s northwest along the Afghan border. Tahir Khan says Monday’s explosion was from a suspected artillery shell that stored in the house in the village of Dars in the Tirah Valley. The valley is located in the Khyber tribal region. Khan says the dead included women and children.

#### US: Use of ‘Myanmar’ doesn’t mean policy change

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The State Department says its use of the name “Myanmar” in a message marking the Southeast Asian nation’s independence day doesn’t reflect a change in U.S. policy. Spokeswoman Marie Harf said Monday the U.S. government officially still refers to the country as Burma—the name ditched by the former ruling junta in 1989. U.S. officials have agonized over which term to use as direct military rule has ended in Myanmar and relations have improved. Last year, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton used “Burma” in a statement to commemorate the nation’s Jan. 4 independence day. But her successor, John Kerry, this year used Myanmar instead.



## World

## Iraq calls on Fallujah residents to expel al-Qaida

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Iraq's prime minister urged Fallujah residents on Monday to expel al-Qaida militants to avoid an all-out battle in the besieged city, a sign that the government could be paving the way for an imminent military push in an attempt to rout hard-line Sunni insurgents challenging its territorial control over the western approaches to Baghdad.

The militants' seizure of Fallujah and parts of nearby Ramadi, once bloody battlegrounds for U.S. troops, has marked the most direct challenge to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government since the departure of American forces two years ago. Both the U.S. and its longtime rival Iran view the escalating conflict with alarm, with neither wanting to see al-Qaida take firmer root inside Iraq. Washington has ruled out sending in American troops

but recently delivered dozens of Hellfire missiles to help bolster Iraqi forces.

Tehran signaled Monday that it is willing to follow suit, saying it is ready to help Iraq battle al-Qaida "terrorists" by sending military equipment and advisers should Baghdad ask for it. It is unclear whether Baghdad would take up the Iranian offer, made by Gen. Mohammad Hejazi, the Iranian Army deputy chief-of-staff, in comments to Iranian state media. He ruled out the sending of ground troops across the border.

Any direct Iranian help would exacerbate sectarian tensions fueling Iraq's conflict, as Iraqi Sunnis accuse Tehran of backing what they say are their Shiite-led government's unfair policies against them. Iran has the power to sway al-Maliki's political fortunes ahead of up-



In this Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014 picture, a gunman holds a rocket-propelled grenade during clashes with Iraqi security forces in Fallujah, Iraq.

coming elections through its deep ties to Iraq's major Shiite factions, which have dominated government offices and security forces since the U.S.-led invasion toppled Iran's arch-foe Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Iraqi government troops have

surrounded Fallujah, which was overrun by fighters from al-Qaida's Iraq branch last week. The city is just 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. It is located in the vast Sunni-dominated and largely desert province of Anbar, which

borders Syria, where al-Qaida-linked groups are among the most formidable fighters among the rebels trying to topple President Bashar Assad.

Al-Maliki did not say how he expects Fallujah residents and pro-government tribesmen to push out the militants. In his message, broadcast over state TV, he also urged Iraqi troops to avoid targeting residential areas. Dozens of families have begun fleeing Fallujah to nearby towns, crammed in cars loaded with their belongings.

Ahmed Ali, an Iraq researcher at the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War, cautioned that a military assault on Fallujah would likely lead to civilian casualties and "possibly invoke other violent tribal responses." It could also give al-Qaida a chance to launch attacks in other parts of the coun-

try given the concentration of forces in Anbar.

"It is important to recognize that (al-Qaida) cannot be decisively defeated in Anbar. The (Iraqi military) presence in Anbar is therefore likely to be long-term, which increases the opportunities for (al-Qaida) to exert control elsewhere in Iraq," he wrote.

The Iraqi al-Qaida group, known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, also took control of most parts of the Anbar provincial capital of Ramadi last week.

Iraqi troops have been trying to dislodge the militants from the two cities. On Sunday, fighting pitting the militant extremists against government forces and allied tribesmen in Anbar killed dozens of people, including 22 soldiers, 10 civilians and an unknown number of militants.

## Syrian rebels' fight with al-Qaida group spreads

**BEIRUT** (AP)—Syrian rebels surrounded a compound held by al-Qaida-linked fighters and freed at least 50 people from a nearby prison Monday as clashes between rival factions in the country's northern provinces spread to the largest city controlled by the opposition.

The rebel-on-rebel fighting in Raqqah—a stronghold of the al-Qaida-linked group known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant—reflects a widening war within a war in Syria, this one against radical extremists. It also adds yet another layer of complexity to the broader Syrian conflict less than three weeks ahead of a planned international peace conference to try to broker a political solution to the civil war.

Support from the U.S. and its Western allies for the rebels has

faded in the past year as al-Qaida-affiliated groups have risen to become one of the most dominant forces among the patchwork of opposition fighting factions.

There was no indication that the move by a mix of more moderate rebels and powerful ultraconservative Islamist brigades against the al-Qaida fighters was a reaction to Western pressure to move against the extremist group. Rather, the violence has been largely limited to communities where tensions between the factions were already simmering.

The number of towns, villages and neighborhoods where clashes were taking place spread across four provinces, providing an indication of the extent of resentment of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

## German leader suffers pelvic injury on ski holiday

**BERLIN** (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel cracked her pelvis during a skiing accident in the Swiss Alps and will have to cut back on her work schedule for the next three weeks, her spokesman said Monday.

Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said the chancellor suffered what she first thought was just a bruise to her left rear pelvic area while cross-country skiing in southeast Switzerland last month. But doctors later determined it was a "incomplete" bone fracture that will require her to rest for three weeks, he said.

"The doctors' orders are to lie down," Seibert told reporters. In response, Merkel canceled a Wednesday visit to Warsaw, Poland, and Luxembourg Prime

Minister Xavier Bettel called off his Thursday trip to Berlin.

Merkel, 59, had been skiing "at low speeds" when her fall occurred, Seibert said. He was unable to say if another person was involved.



Merkel

She will continue to preside over Cabinet and government meetings, using a walking aid to get around, he added.

Last week, Merkel sent her wishes for a speedy recovery to German Formula One legend Michael Schumacher, who suffered a serious head injury while downhill skiing in France. Schumacher has been in a medically induced coma at Grenoble University Hospital and doctors said Monday he is still in critical but stable condition.



In this Monday, Dec. 30, 2013 photo, a newborn baby cries while is held by a nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the Mofid Children's Hospital in Tehran, Iran.

## Iran tries to reverse a slumping birth rate

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—In Iran, free condoms and government-backed vasectomies are out, replaced by sermons praising larger families and discussions of even offering gold coins to the families of newborns.

Having successfully curbed birth rates for two decades, Iran now is promoting a baby boom to help make up for its graying population. But experts say it is difficult to encourage Iranians to have more children in a mismanaged economy hit by Western sanctions and 36 percent inflation.

"A gold coin won't change couples' calculations," said Mohammad Jalal Abbasi, head of Demographics Department

at Tehran University. "Many young Iranians prefer to continue their studies, not marry. Lack of financial ability to buy a house and meet expenses are among other reasons why the youth postpone marriage or have no interest in raising many children."

Iran's birthrate reached a peak of 3.6 children per couple after its 1979 Islamic Revolution, among the world's highest at the time. By 1990, experts estimated Iran could be home to 140 million people if the rate was left unchecked. To combat the rise, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei endorsed birth control, while then-President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani made controlling

the birth rate a part of his development plans.

Mass-produced condoms reached Iranians, as a month's supply of birth control cost the equivalent of 10 cents in 1992. The birth rate dropped precipitously, now reportedly standing at 1.8 children per couple with a population of some 77 million people. Experts now say that drive might have been too successful, estimating that Iran's population growth could reach zero in the next 20 years if the trend is not reversed.

Fearing that population decline, the machinery of state in Iran has changed course entirely. Khamenei, who has final say over all matters of state, now says Iran should have a

population of 150 million people or more.

"If we move forward like this, we will be a country of elderly people in a not-too-distant future. Why do some couples prefer to have one or two children? Why do couples avoid having children? The reasons need to be studied," the ayatollah recently said. "There was an imitation of Western life and we inherited this."

Sermons now urge worshippers to raise more children for Iran's future. Mahdi Sedqazar, who performed vasectomies at his government-sponsored Martyr Jafari clinic in central Tehran for a decade, now focuses on preventing AIDS and promoting factory workers' health.



# Focus

**CHIANG MAI, Thailand (AP)**—Residents of this facility for people with Alzheimer's disease toss around a yellow ball and laugh under a cascade of water with their caregivers, in a swimming pool ringed by palm trees and wind chimes. Susanna Kuratli, once a painter of delicate oils, swims a lap and smiles.

Watching is her husband, Ulrich, who has a heart-rending decision: to leave his wife of 41 years in this facility 9,000 kilometers (5,600 miles) from home, or to bring her back to Switzerland.

Their homeland treats the elderly as well as any nation on Earth, but Ulrich Kuratli says the care here in northern Thailand is not only less expensive but more personal. In Switzerland, "You have a cold, old lady who gives you pills and tells you to go to bed," he says.

Kuratli and his three grown children have given themselves six months to decide while the retired software developer lives alongside his 65-year-old wife in Baan Kamlangchay—"Home for Care from the Heart." Patients live in individual houses within a Thai community, are taken to local markets, temples and restaurants, each with three caretakers working in rotation to provide personal around-the-clock care. The monthly \$3,800 cost is a third of what basic institutional care would come to in Switzerland.

Kuratli is not yet sure how he'll care for Susanna, who used to produce a popular annual calendar of her paintings. But he's leaning toward keeping her in Thailand, possibly for the rest of her life.

"Sometimes I am jealous. My wife won't take my hand but when her Thai carer takes it, she is calm. She seems to be happy," he says. "When she sees me she starts to cry. Maybe she remembers how we were and understands, but can no longer find the words."

Spouses and relatives in Western nations are increasingly confronting Kuratli's dilemma as the number of Alzheimer's patients and costs rise, and the supply of qualified nurses and facilities struggles to keep up. Faraway countries are offering cheaper, and to some minds better, care for those suffering from the irreversible loss of memory.

The nascent trend is unnerving to some experts who say uprooting people with Alzheimer's will add to their sense of displacement and anxiety, though others say quality of care is more important than location. There's also some general uneasiness over the idea of sending ailing elderly people abroad: The German press has branded it "gerontological colonialism."

Germany is already sending several thousand sufferers, as



In this photo taken Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013, Alzheimer patients from Switzerland are cared by Thai caretakers during afternoon activities at Baan Kamlangchay care center in Chiang Mai province, northern Thailand.

## Some with Alzheimer's find care in far-off nations

**DENIS D. GRAY**  
Associated Press

well as the aged and otherwise ill, to Eastern Europe, Spain, Greece and Ukraine. Patients are even moving from Switzerland, which was ranked No. 1 in health care for the elderly this year in an index compiled by the elderly advocacy group HelpAge International and the U.N. Population Fund.

The Philippines is offering Americans care for \$1,500 to \$3,500 a month—as compared to \$6,900 the American Elder Care Research Organization says is the average monthly bill for a private room in a skilled nursing U.S. facility. About 100 Americans are currently seeking care in the Philippines but more facilities are being built and a marketing campaign will be launched in 2014, says J.J. Reyes, who is planning a retirement community near Manila.

Facilities in Thailand also are preparing to attract more Alzheimer's sufferers. In Chiang Mai, a pleasant city ringed by mountains, Baan Kamlangchay will be followed by a \$10 million, holiday-like home scheduled to open before mid-2014. Also on the way is a small Alzheimer's unit within a retirement community set on the grounds of a former four-star resort. With Thailand seeking to strengthen its already leading position as a medical tourism and retirement destination, similar projects are likely.

The number of people over

60 worldwide is set to more than triple between 2000 and 2050 to 2 billion, according to the World Health Organization. And more are opting for retirement in lower-cost countries.

"Medical tourism" has become a booming industry, with roughly 8 million people of all ages seeking treatment abroad annually, according to the group Patients Without Borders.

The U.K.-based Alzheimer's Disease International says there are more than 44 million Alzheimer's patients globally, and the figure is projected to triple to 135 million by 2050. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that in the U.S. alone, the disease will cost \$203 billion this year and soar to \$1.2 trillion by 2050.

The pioneering Baan Kamlangchay was established by Martin Woodtli, a Swiss who spent four years in Thailand with the aid group Doctors Without Borders before returning home to care for his Alzheimer's diagnosed mother.

Wanting to return to Thailand and knowing that Thais traditionally regard the elderly with great respect, he brought his mother to Chiang Mai, where she became the home's first "guest." Woodtli never uses the word "patient."

Over the next 10 years, the 52-year-old psychologist and social worker purchased or rented eight two-story houses where 13 Swiss and German

patients now reside. Two people normally share the modest but well-kept, fully furnished houses, each sleeping in a separate bedroom along with their caretaker.

Breakfast and lunch are eaten together at another residence where Woodtli, his wife and son live. On most afternoons, the group gathers at a private, walled park to swim, snack and relax on deck chairs. Regular outside activities are organized because he believes these stimuli may help delay degeneration.

"Movement is important. Tensions are also relieved if they have freedom to move. Our carers allow our guests a lot of space as long as it does not pose a danger to them," he says. "In Switzerland we don't have opportunity for such care."

He says his guests "cannot explain it, but I think they feel part of a family, a community, and that is very important."

Yet Woodtli says he has received criticism about "the Swiss starting to export their social problems."

The German press has recently described shifting the aged and ailing abroad as "grandmother export."

Sabine Jansen, head of Germany's Alzheimer Society, says that while some with Alzheimer's may adjust to an alien place, most find it difficult because they live in a world of earlier memories.

"People with dementia should stay in their familiar environment as long as possible. They are better oriented in their own living places and communities," she says. "Friends, family members, neighbors can visit them. Also because of language and cultural reasons, it is best for most to stay in their home country."

Angela Lunde of the U.S.-based Mayo Clinic says that generally the afflicted do better in a familiar environment, but over time, even those with advanced stages of the disease can adjust well. "I think a positive transition has less to do with the move itself and more with the way in which the staff and new environment accommodates the person living with dementia," she says.

Woodtli agrees that moving to country like Thailand is not the answer for everyone with Alzheimer's, but those who have traveled widely and are accustomed to change can probably adapt.

"One of our guests sometimes wakes up in the morning and says, 'Where am I?' But she would do the same if she was in a care center in Switzerland," he says. "And they take their past with them. One guest thinks she is in a schoolhouse at Lake Lucerne."

Those who end up staying at a facility being built in the outlying Chiang Mai district of Doi

Saket will have amenities that would be tough for its European counterparts to match, including a clubhouse with a massage room and beauty parlor, a restaurant, Swiss bakery and pavilions with soaring ceilings and skylights.

"The idea is that this is a resort, not a hospital," says Marc H. Dumur, a veteran hotelier who will manage the Swiss-owned, 3.5-hectare (8.7-acre) facility built amid orchards and groves of teak. Going up are 72 patient rooms in six spacious pavilions, plus villas for visiting family members. Around-the-clock care will be provided by a staff of 150, including a Swiss head nurse and at least one licensed Thai nurse for each pavilion.

These patient-to-carer ratios reflect the costs in a developing country like Thailand and the West. A licensed Thai nurse earns less than \$700 a month, compared to about \$7,000 for one in Switzerland, where care centers will have one nurse responsible for 10 patients.

Care at the Doi Saket home will cost \$6,000 a month, roughly what a mid-level employee in Switzerland would receive as a pension, Dumur says.

A number of European countries have generous national health insurance, but these generally do not cover treatment abroad. Kuratli says the Swiss government would cover two-thirds of the bill for his wife's care if she stays in Switzerland, but since high-end private clinics there can cost \$15,000 or more per month, he could still end up paying more there than he would in Thailand.

British businessman Peter Brown has turned a bankrupt resort into the Care Resort Chiang Mai. Residents will live in five-room units, watched over by nurses 24 hours a day, and walk out into extensive, landscaped grounds, with a thousand trees and a lake, set in a tranquil area at the foot of mountains.

"In Europe they tend to follow a lock-up system. They know what should be done but they just don't have the staff to do it—to take patients to visit gardens, to give them some freedom," Brown says. "And the carers tend to come from the lower end of the nursing system. They often don't have the desire to work with Alzheimer's patients or an affinity with them."

Woodtli agrees that it is crucial "for the patients to be together with their carers, to know and trust." He says Thai caregivers like those at Baan Kamlangchay are generally more emotionally and physically engaged with their charges.

At the swimming pool, Madeleine Buchmeier snaps photos and laughs as she watches a caregiver take her smiling husband's hands to twirl around together in a dance out of childhood.



# Campus Life

## Registration for NMC's spring semester begins next week

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's upcoming spring 2014 semester will begin on Monday, Jan. 13, and run through Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number during registration week. Late registration is on Friday, Jan. 17, 2014.

Note that new students and returning students (those who did not take courses at NMC during the previous semester) are required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. The last placement test date is scheduled for 9am on Jan. 10, 2014. Students may schedule to take the placement tests by contacting acting testing coordinator Queanna Sablan at 237-6774/6790 or visiting the Testing Center in Building I.

New and returning students are also required to attend a student orientation in order to register for courses. It is highly recommended that students confirm which orientation they will be attending by contacting the Sablan at

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **Jan. 8:** Student orientation for new and returning students (6pm-8:30pm, Room D-1)
- **Jan. 9:** Student orientation for new and returning students (9am-11:30am, Room D-1)
- **Jan. 10:** Early registration for spring 2014 graduation candidates and students under Disability Support Services
- **Jan. 13:** Registration for students with PowerCampus ID #s 000000138 through 000014370
- **Jan. 14:** Registration for students with PowerCampus ID #s 000014371 through 000017530
- **Jan. 15:** Registration for students with PowerCampus ID #s 000017531 through 000019617
- **Jan. 16:** Registration for new, re-admitted, and ongoing students and students with PowerCampus ID #s 000019618 or Higher
- **Jan. 17:** Late registration

237-6774/6790 or emailing queanna.sablan@marianas.edu.

After taking the placement tests and attending student orientation, students can meet with their academic advisors, who will assist students complete registration forms and create class schedules. Students may register between

9am and 6pm Monday through Friday during registration week.

Ongoing students must obtain registration clearance at the Finance Office, the NMC Library and/or Office of Admissions and Records before they can register for classes. To find out if any holds exist, students can visit the Office

of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 237-6768/6769/6771.

NMC offers several degree programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or

computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). (NMC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja administration, Student Council officers and members, and Sebia, standing far right, pose with the items donated to ESFDB.

## 4-year-old child donates books to ESFDB

What a New Year to start 2014 at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, thanks to the generosity of a 4-year-old child who donated books, board games, and sports equipment to ESFDB.

This is the first for ESFDB to receive a donation from such a young donor.

Eusebia Ana Hocog Flores, better known to families and friends as "Sebia," was excited to make the donation, saying she wants the students of ESFDB to start reading at an early age and to share her love for reading.

"Reading at an early age is good and this is a great chance for me to share that joy," said Sebia.

"During tough times, when schools are struggling, we have individuals and businesses out there that are willing to help. We are very fortunate that a child

stepped up to make in-kind donations to our school," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig.

Since Atalig had been appointed to head the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, various individuals and businesses had been donating to the school, especially books. Her goal is to improve reading and provide the students with books that they can read for pleasure.

Atalig said, "Giving a child the gift of literacy is giving them a future," and that is the mission she vows to continue at ESFDB.

"If you can change the landscape of an individual child, perhaps the landscape of the Luta community can change," added Atalig.

"A huge thank you to Sebia! Your generosity amazed and delighted

us. Thanks to you, the students of ESFDB will enjoy their new books, board games, and volleyball set," said ESFDB board president Edward Maratita Jr.

"This is terrific coming from a young donor," said ESFDB Student Council president Angelica Lucero. "She is setting an example and her donation will mean so much to our students."

Sebia is a K4 student from Harvest Christian Academy in Guam. Her proud parents are Ace and Therese Hocog Flores of Yigo, Guam.

The administration, students, faculty and staff, and board of directors would like to express their appreciation to Sebia. Thank you, *dangkulo na si yu'us ma'ase*, and *maraming salamat po!* (Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja)



TIMOTHY WILSON

Capt. Leonard Remias, commodore of Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron 3, based out of Saipan, speaks with students from Palau High School during a community relations event on Dec. 11. Remias, captain of the USNS 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo, traveled to Palau as part of a Theater Security Cooperation mission that was coordinated and facilitated by the U.S. Defense Representative Political-Military Affairs office.

## Sailors join Palau students for basketball scrimmage

By TIMOTHY WILSON  
MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS  
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**KOROR, Palau**—Seven sailors from USNS 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo traveled to Palau High School to play volleyball and mentor students on Dec. 11, 2013.

Sailors and students played four games on the courts and talked about military life, the importance of volunteering and discussed the Navy life. The sailors, home-based in Guam, traveled to Palau aboard the *Bobo* as part of a Theater Security Cooperation mission that was coordinated and facilitated by the U.S. Defense Representative Political-Military Affairs office.

"It is always a blessing having U.S. ships come into Palau and these sailors did not have to volunteer their time," said Joyce Isechal, political specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Palau. "When we have community relations programs, even when it is something simple like playing volleyball with the children, we are very grateful for the time and effort of these sailors."

She added that the government of Palau welcomes any opportunities to partner with the U.S. government as well as to engage in further trainings, collaborations and sharing commonalities of cultures.

"It was a wonderful experience. I have never volunteered in Palau be-

fore so meeting the local high school children was a brand new experience for me," said Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW) Zachary Nicholas, assistant material officer aboard the *Bobo*. "I learned that Palau has one of the largest percentages for volunteers in the U.S. military. Their sense of duty and patriotism, even at this age, is incredible."

Between matches, Nicholas answered questions about Navy life, various experiences throughout his career and what personality characteristics were necessary to be successful in the military.

"I was asked what it takes to succeed as a sailor," he said. "It was great question and I had to admit the basics. The Navy looks for people that are motivated, hardworking and dedicated to a mission and a way of life. It takes more than physical training or good grades. Sailors today need to embrace the core values of the Navy and help promote where ever they may be, whether at a school or underway."

Lt. Cmdr. Antonio Pinkston, chief of staff officer aboard the *Bobo*, said that spending time with the younger people in port is his favorite experience during any underway.

"Having children of my own, I take personal satisfaction to be able to contribute to the youth of today in terms of their personal development and giving positive reinforcement," he said.



# Life & Style

## Filipino diva Rose Fostanes is feel-good story of Israeli TV

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—A 47-year-old Filipino caregiver has emerged as the newest star of Israeli reality television, putting a human face on the thousands of foreign workers who toil away in menial, back-breaking jobs in this country.

Israeli viewers of the country's myriad of reality shows have grown accustomed to successful candidates from various backgrounds, including black-clad ultra-Orthodox Jews, Ethiopian immigrants and a German convert to Judaism who became a celebrity chef. But they've never seen someone like Rose Fostanes before.

The diminutive woman with a booming voice has taken "X-Factor Israel" by storm and emerged as a national phenomenon. Known simply as "Rose," she is mobbed by fans wherever she goes.

"It's a big change in my life because before nobody recognized me, nobody knew me. But now everybody, I think everybody in Israel knows my name. And it is very funny," she said.

Fostanes arrived six years ago to work as a caregiver so, like millions of other Filipino workers around the world, she could send money back home to her family and her girlfriend.

She spends her days caring and cleaning for an ailing woman in her 50s. To save money, Fostanes lives in a crowded apartment in south Tel Aviv, a downtrodden area inhabited by foreign laborers, with seven others.

Until recently, Fostanes was among the thousands of Filipinos who work in similar positions in Israel. The site of Filipino workers wheeling elderly Israelis in public places is so common that the word "Filipini" has become synonymous with "caregiver."

Several months ago, a friend

encouraged her to enter the "X-Factor" competition, a popular show hosted by Israeli supermodel Bar Refaeli. Standing just 1.50 meters-tall (4-foot-11), Fostanes has captured her audiences' hearts with a surprisingly strong and soulful voice, belting out such hits as Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" and Lady Gaga's "You and I." She is among the final five contestants and widely seen as a favorite.

Israeli singer Shiri Maimon, a judge on the show and former reality TV contestant herself, has served as Fostanes' "mentor" throughout the season. After a recent rendition of Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful," Maimon could barely contain her excitement.

"It was so moving. I am so proud of you. We will have an amazing journey together," she said. "I'm speechless. It was more than perfect."

Fostanes said she has dreamed of singing since she was a child, but suffered discrimination because of her appearance. She said she still can't believe how far she has come.

"Sometimes I am telling myself, 'Is it true that it happened to me?'" she said. "At least I can express and show the people that I have also talents and it's not too late for me to shine."

Fostanes said she has been a caregiver since the age of 23, working in Egypt and Lebanon before coming to Israel. She is among the roughly 10 million Filipinos, or 10 percent of the overall population, who work abroad.

Israel's estimated 40,000 Filipinos enjoy relative freedom, as long as they have work permits. Most remain for an agreed-upon period of time before returning home.

Fostanes said Filipinos around the world have heard about her and frequently send her text messages of support. But her success has been tempered by the distance from her loved ones. She last visited the Philippines two years ago.

"Really I miss them, my family especially, and of course my girlfriend because this is the time I really need them beside me," she said, with tears in her eyes. "I need their support not only because they are in the Philippines, I want them to be by my side."

In this Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014 photo, Rose Fostanes sings during a rehearsal of the X-Factor Israel in Tel Aviv.

AP



### IN LOVING MEMORY

## Vicente Muna Dela Cruz

Better known as "Tun Ben"

Born on September 25, 1957 was called home by our heavenly father at the age of 56 on January 01, 2014

#### In his new life, he now joins his:

<b>Parents:</b>	†Manuel Lizama Dela Cruz †Blandina Muna Cabrera
<b>Maternal Grandparents:</b>	†Vicente Sablan †Soledad Cabrera Muna
<b>Paternal Grandparents:</b>	†Pedro Salas Dela Cruz †Dolores Lizama Dela Cruz
<b>Daughter:</b>	†Lucrecia Leonisa Quitugua
<b>Godfather:</b>	†Henry Carl. V. Hofschneider
<b>Brothers/Sisters &amp; Spouses:</b>	†Soledad Muna Dela Cruz & †Henry Santos †Ignacia Muna Dela Cruz †Antonio Muna Dela Cruz †Francisco Muna Dela Cruz †Dolores Muna Dela Cruz †Sylvia LG. & Anthony Rupley †Manuel P. Quitugua
<b>Parents In Law:</b>	†Emilio Q. Toves
<b>Nephew &amp; Nieces:</b>	†Elpidia DLC. Santos †Joseph Anthony DLC. Santos †Ray Anthony DLC. Santos †Nasha Marie T. Dela Cruz †Gabriel Pedro DLC. Santos

#### His memories will live in the hearts of his:

**Wife:** Carmelita Quitugua Dela Cruz

#### Children/Spouse/Grandchildren/Great Grandchildren:

**Jennifer Lynn** Weger & Patrick C. Dilla — *Children: Janice Marie, Deanna Lynn, Benjamin Jr. (Collen Jeriba, Jolyssa Jade), Jerome Peter, TinaAnn, John Jr., Vince/Janeace (Aiden Jace), Kalani, & Lakisha*

**Daniel Edward** & Dedra Dela Cruz — *Children: Darrien, Damian, & Dillen*

†**Lucrecia Leonisa** Quitugua — *Children: Joseph Ramon & Ali'ikai Joe*

**Lawrence Gabriel** Dela Cruz & Rita Bernice Borja — *Children: Shimiko & Skyler*

**Carla Marie** Dela Cruz & Joaquin Palacios — *Children: Manuel Vicente, Malinao Tasi, Agustin Tudela, John Christian, Ha'nai Darence, LeTrishia Ina*

**Victoria Marie** Dela Cruz & Gregory Cruz — *Children: Raymond Jermaine*

#### Brothers, Sisters and In Laws:

†**Soledad DLC.** & †Henry Santos (†*Gabriel & Grace, Josephine & Walter, Josepha & James, †Elpbedia, Henry Jr. & Vicky, †Joseph, †Ray Anthony, Lucy Ann & Michael, Ramon Francisco & Marie*)

†**Antonio M.** & Jesusa Dela Cruz (*Melissa, Vicki & Donald, Rose Ann & Will, John Anthony & Jormalou, Antonio Jr. & Francine, Robert & Rowena, Chris, Rozabel & Mike, Sandra & Wayne, Dannell, Tonyo & Francine, Connie, Mariano Manuel, Randy, Aisha*)

**Carmen DLC.** & Don A. Farrell (*Sbari, Richard & Celina, Darcy & Jackie*)

**Ramon M.** & Dolores Dela Cruz (*Peter John, Valerie & Robert, Raymond Jr. & Mary Ann, Peter & Elaine, Sbeila & Henry Jr., Jennifer, Marian & Alfonso Jr., Eugene & Jennifer, Mathew & Mary, Eva & Anthony*)

†**Francisco M.** & Anita Dela Cruz (*Laura Lynn & Richard, Francisco Jr. & Rosa, Manel Joseph & Laila, Luke Vincent & Michelle Antoniette Agnes & Andy, Jesse Moses & Morab, Doris Ann & Michael*)

**Cynthia DLC.** & Marciano Takasi (*Brigitte & Mario, Marciano & Claudia, Teruko & Christopher, Jessica & Edwin*)

**Jose M. & Enriqueta Dela Cruz** (*Marjorie & Richard, Joanna & James, Soledad & Mario*)

**Edward M.** Dela Cruz & Inez F. Sandbergen (*Kevin & Francine, Jason, Edilene Danielle & Kelvin, Edward II, Reggie, Benny, Zoe Zinnia, Baltazar, Nicole*)

**Lucia M.** Dela Cruz/Theresa F. Acosta (*Lenae Anne*)

**Manuel Quitugua**

**John Quitugua**

**Vicente & Dorathy Quitugua**

**Anthony Quitugua**

**Daryl & Corrine Quitugua**

**Tina Quitugua**

**Michael Quitugua & Doris Ann Dela Cruz**

**Norma Jeanne Quitugua/Ignacio Guerrero**

**Godparents:** Magdalena M. Hofschneider & Herman M. Manglona

*He will be greatly missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, great nieces, great nephews and wonderful friends.*

*Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:45 p.m. at San Jose Church, Tinian. Techa: Rosa P. Aquiningoc  
His remains will be taken from the THC Morgue to his residence on Friday, January 10, 2014, 6:00p.m. for bela. Rosary will be at 7:45 p.m. Final Rosary/Responso will be held at 8:00 a.m. on January 11, 2014 at San Jose Church beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 9:45 a.m. Mass for Christian Burial will be offered at 10:00 a.m., interment will follow.*

## Kate Atkinson's novel wins Britain's Costa Book Award

**LONDON** (AP)—British writer Kate Atkinson has won the novel-of-the-year prize at Britain's Costa Book Awards with her reality-altering historical saga "Life After Life."

Other winners in the event's five categories include poet Michael Symmons Roberts for his collection "Drysalter" and mental health nurse Nathan Filer, who takes the first-novel prize for his saga of madness, "The Shock of the Fall."

Lucy Hughes-Hallett won the biography category for her portrait of an Italian Fascist, "The Pike," while author and illustrator Chris Riddell won the children's book prize for "Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse."

One of the five books named Monday will be chosen as the overall winner and awarded 30,000 pounds (\$50,000) at a Jan. 28 ceremony. The awards are open to writers based in Britain and Ireland.



# As cohabitation gains favor, shotgun weddings fade

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—No longer taboo, living together has become a more common arrangement for America's couples who become pregnant while dating.

Soon-to-be-released government figures show a major cultural shift since the days of "shotgun weddings" aimed at avoiding family embarrassment. With marriage on the decline, the shift is helping redefine the traditional notion of family.

"The emergence of cohabitation as an acceptable context for childbearing has changed the family-formation landscape," said Christina Gibson-Davis, a sociology professor at Duke University. "Individuals still value the idea of a two-parent family but no longer consider it necessary for the parents to be married."

Still, she cautions that children in cohabiting households may face more difficulties growing up if their unmarried parents are at higher risk of breaking up.

In all, the share of unmarried couples who opted to have "shotgun cohabitations"—moving in together after a pregnancy—surpassed "shotgun marriages" for the first time over the last decade, according to a forthcoming paper from the National Center for Health Statistics, part of the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention. The trend was affirmed by three demographers who conducted separate research on the topic.

It's the latest demographic tipping point as cohabitations turn mainstream—a far cry from the days when the father of a pregnant daughter might use coercion, such as a shotgun, to make sure the boyfriend followed through on a wedding.

"I want to marry when I'm ready, not because I'm being forced into it. Whenever I see couples do that, things don't work out," said Amanda Leigh Pulte, 22, of Austin, Texas, as her 11-month-old daughter Zoey cooed in her arms. Pulte previously had delayed moving in with Matthew Gage, a 29-year-old shipping manager and her boyfriend for three years, wishing to wait until she could earn a bachelor's degree in film and start a full-time job.

An unplanned pregnancy quickly changed that. Completing an associate degree, she agreed to have Gage move in so the couple could work and save on rent while raising Zoey together. Even though they didn't see marriage as a serious option for now—in part to avoid the additional stress of planning and paying for a wedding, she says—neither was having Pulte live on her own as a single mother.

"For a while, my father was

kind of shocked about the whole thing, but ultimately he was just excited to be a grandfather," she said with a chuckle. The couple is getting child care tips from the nonprofit Any Baby Can, which also helps them with physical therapy for Zoey, who was born with health ailments.

The numbers are based on the government's National Survey of Family Growth, typically issued every four years. It provides the only government data on cohabiting mothers by asking questions on a woman's relationship status before and after conception and childbirth. Women who say they were single before conception and then married before childbirth are counted as someone who had a post-conception, or "shotgun" marriage; those who moved in with their boyfriends after pregnancy had a post-conception or "shotgun" cohabitation.

Demographers say the cohabiting trend among new parents is likely to continue. Social stigma regarding out-of-wedlock births is loosening, and economic factors play a role. Many couples, especially those who lack a bachelor's degree, are postponing marriage until their finances are more stable. But because of globalization, automation and outsourcing, good-paying middle-income jobs are harder to come by.



This photo taken Dec. 20, 2013 shows Amanda Leigh Pulte, left, and Matthew Gage, right, posing with their daughter Zoey at their home in Austin.

"Because marriages are becoming more polarized by economic status, I don't see the trend of shotgun cohabitations reversing any time soon," said Casey Copen, a demographer at the government's National Center for Health Statistics,

which administers the government survey.

About 18.1 percent of all single women who became pregnant opted to move in with their boyfriends before the child was born, according to 2006-2010 data from the govern-

ment's National Survey of Family Growth, the latest available. That is compared to 5.3 percent who chose a post-conception marriage.

As recently as the early 1990s, 25 percent of such couples got married.

## Back to the future? Time travel missing on Twitter

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Time travelers, if they really exist, seem to be keeping their adventures to themselves.

Researchers with perhaps a bit too much time on their hands conducted an extensive Internet and social media search for evidence of time travelers going back in history and then bragging about it online.

And they came up empty. No real life Dr. Who or Marty McFly from "Back to the Future" tweeting secrets a bit early.

Spurred by idle chat during Thursday poker games, an astrophysicist and his students at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Mich., searched for mentions of Pope Francis and Comet ISON before they popped into reality. Francis was elected pope last March and ISON was first de-

tected in September 2012.

The idea: If someone mentions a Pope Francis in a 2011 tweet, Facebook post or blog item, then they must have come back from the future with special knowledge.

But no one posted anything prescient.

And last September, the researchers asked people to tweet "(hash)Icanchangethepast2"—but do it before August, a month earlier. Again, no one did.

The disappointing results, rejected by three physics journals, will be presented Tuesday at the American Astronomical Society conference in Washington.

If someone went back in time and said something to hint about the future, it would prove the concept of time travel, said astrophysicist Robert Nemiroff.

He said this was merely sum-

mer fun that cost nothing to do.

"This wasn't a major research push," Nemiroff said Monday at the astronomy meeting. "This was typing things into search engines. Billions of dollars are spent on time travel movies and books and stuff like that. This probably costs less than a dollar to check on it."

Nemiroff said this isn't his normal field and he didn't much believe in traveling backward in time before—and believes less in it now. "Unless I go back (in time) and publish lots of papers," he joked.

Other scientists didn't quite take it too seriously either.

Harvard astronomer Avi Loeb said in an email, "as anyone who uses online dating knows, the Internet is the last place to find the truth about the physical reality."

## NBC's 'Saturday Night Live' hires black woman

**NEW YORK (AP)**—NBC's comic institution "Saturday Night Live," criticized recently for a lack of diversity, said on Monday that it was adding a black woman to its repertory cast when new episodes start again later this month.

Sasheer Zamata, who graduated from the University of Virginia in 2008 and has worked with the New York Upright Citizens Brigade comedy troupe, will join for the Jan. 18 episode, for which Drake is the host and the musical guest. Zamata, 27, is from Indianapolis.

The 137 regular cast members who have been part of "Saturday Night Live" since its 1975 de-

but have been mostly white and have included only four black women. The most recent was biracial Maya Rudolph, who left in 2007. Black men, including Eddie Murphy, Tracy Morgan and Chris Rock, have played more prominent roles.

The lack of a black woman among the 16 regular or featured players became an issue this season when the two black male cast members, Kenan Thompson and Jay Pharoah, commented publicly about it and made it known they would no longer dress in drag to portray black women.

"SNL" turned the issue into comedy when "Scandal" star Kerry Washington was a guest

host. Washington was portrayed as exasperated when she was asked to impersonate first lady Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey and Beyonce in the same skit. At the top of the show, an "SNL" producer apologized for the number of black female characters Washington needed to play that night.

Behind the scenes, though, "SNL" founding executive producer Lorne Michaels was busy holding comedy showcases across the country, searching for a black woman to join the cast.

"It's not like it's not a priority for us," Michaels said two months ago. "It will happen. I'm sure it will happen."

## First Year Death Anniversary

*We, the family of the late*

### †Winefreda Maratita Sablan

cordially invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 1st year death anniversary of the passage of our beloved unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be celebrated at Kristo Rai Church beginning on Wednesday, January 01, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. On January 02, 2014 thru January 09, 2014, mass will be celebrated at 6:00 a.m.

On the final day, Thursday, January 09, 2014, breakfast will be served immediately after the 6:00 a.m. Mass at the Kristo Rai Church Social Hall.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and May God Bless us all.

**Luis M. Sablan, Elden, Shana and Family**



## NYC museum presents 'The Little Prince' exhibit

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry crafted “The Little Prince” in New York City, mentioning Rockefeller Center and Long Island in one draft of the beloved children’s tale—references he ultimately deleted.

That page is contained in the French author’s original handwritten manuscript, which is the subject of a major exhibition at the Morgan Library and Museum celebrating the book’s 1943 publication.

“The Little Prince: A New York Story,” which opens Jan. 24, features 35 of his original watercolors and 25 pages from his heavily revised 140-page text, written in Saint-Exupéry’s tiny script.

Some visitors may be surprised to learn that “The Little Prince,” which has been translated into more than 250 languages and dialects, was written and first published in New York.

“It’s well documented that he wrote the book here, but it’s not well known to the general public,” said Christine Nelson, curator of literary and historical manuscripts at the Morgan.

“Because the manuscript brings you back to the moment of creation, we wanted to set the exhibition in the place and time of creation,” she said. “It focuses on the emergence of this work in New York during the war. He was writing it just within miles of where this exhibition is being shown.”

Saint-Exupéry, a French aviator and best-selling author, didn’t live to see his book published in France after the war. He died while piloting a reconnaissance flight in 1944, weeks before the liberation of Paris.

“The Little Prince” tells the adventures of a boy who hails from a tiny asteroid no larger than a house. On his way to



AP

This undated photo provided by the Morgan Library and Museum shows a drawing from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s beloved children’s tale “The Little Prince,” which is the subject of a major exhibition at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York on the 70th anniversary of the book’s publication.

Earth, he visits other planets and meets a king, a conceited man, a drunkard, a lamplighter and a geographer. On Earth, he encounters a fox who teaches him: “What is essential is invisible to the eye.” The phrase is the book’s central theme and one Saint-Exupéry revised 15 times, including the version “What matters cannot be seen.”

Saint-Exupéry came to New York after France fell to Germany in 1940. He spent two years living near Central Park

and Manhattan’s East Side and renting a summer home on Long Island’s North Shore. Frequently, he wrote at the Park Avenue home of his close friend Silvia (Hamilton) Reinhardt. He entrusted his handwritten manuscript to her before he rejoined his squadron in North Africa.

The Morgan acquired the manuscript from her in 1968, the museum said. Saint-Exupéry’s French publisher, Gallimard, has just published a facsimile of the working manuscript.

“This is very much a preliminary draft, a work in progress and yet to anyone who knows the book well it will be entirely recognizable,” Nelson said.

Among the exhibition’s highlights is an unpublished drawing that Saint-Exupéry had wadded up and tossed showing the prince wearing his signature yellow scarf floating over Earth. Some of the illustrations are paired with images from the first edition.

The pages on view include episodes from the prince’s time on Earth that were deleted entirely from the final version: a meeting with a storekeeper who gives him a lesson on marketing and an encounter with an investor who has a machine that meets every need with just the push of a button.

“He was a very diligent au-

thor. He worked, labored, revised, read out loud to people ... he was very interested in people’s response to the story,” Nelson said.

There’s also a three-page draft of an alternate ending in which the narrator muses about what happened to the little prince after he left Earth.

“It’s much more agonized and melancholy and reads as a war-time text,” Nelson said. “The final version is more open-ended, more mysterious, leaving it up to the reader to conclude how to feel at the end of the prince’s journey.”

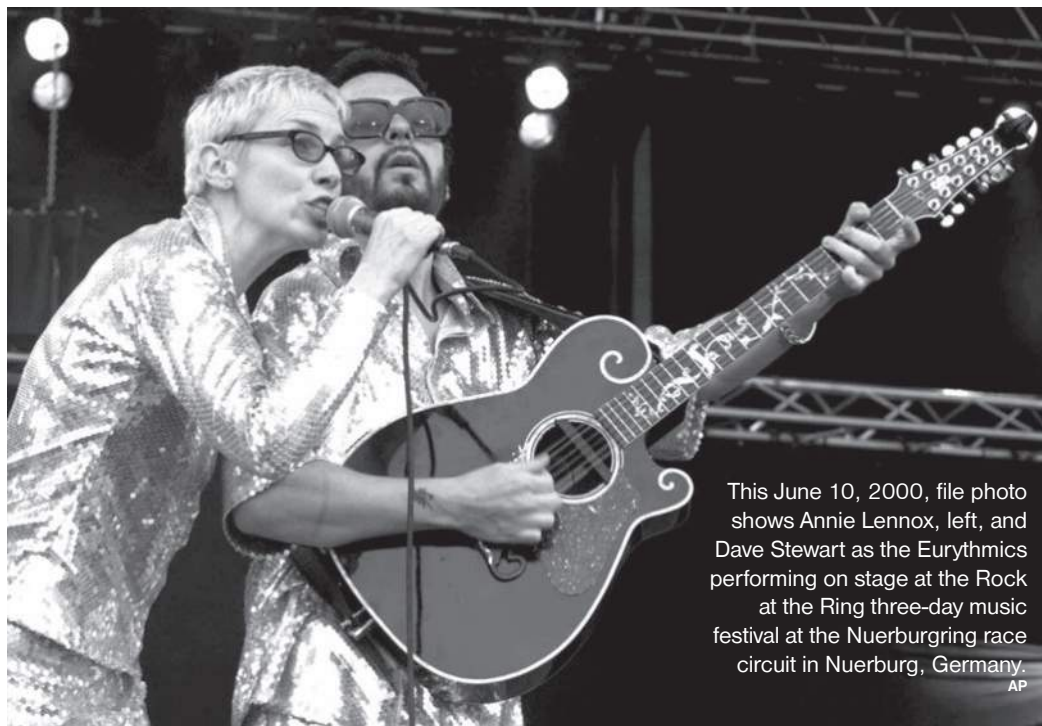
The exhibition also features a silver identity bracelet that Saint-Exupéry was wearing when he was killed. It is on loan from Saint-Exupéry’s Paris estate.

The bracelet, never before exhibited in the U.S., “was recovered in 1998 after it was snagged in a fisherman’s net and bears the author’s name and the New York address of his American publisher” Reynal & Hitchcock, said Olivier d’Agay, the estate’s director.

The exhibition helps “reinforce the bonds of friendship between the French and the Americans through one of the most beloved books of all time,” he added.

The exhibition runs through April 27.

## Sweet dream: Eurythmics uniting at Beatles tribute



This June 10, 2000, file photo shows Annie Lennox, left, and Dave Stewart as the Eurythmics performing on stage at the Rock at the Ring three-day music festival at the Nuerburgring race circuit in Nuerburg, Germany. AP

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The Eurythmics are reuniting—to pay tribute to the Beatles.

The Recording Academy announced Monday that Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart will perform as a duo for “The Night That Changed America: A Grammy Salute to the Beatles.” The event will be taped at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Jan. 27, a day after the Grammy Awards.

Longtime Grammys producer Ken Ehrlich, who is also producing the Beatles special, thought the Eurythmics would be ideal to honor the iconic group.

“When it came around to booking this show, what I felt

was important was to try and find those artists who not only would be able to interpret Beatles songs, but would also have an ... understanding of what they meant,” he said in an interview.

The Eurythmics, who sold millions of albums and whose hits include “Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This),” released their debut in 1981. Ehrlich said Lennox and Stewart, who have launched successful solo careers, are thrilled to perform in tribute to the Beatles.

Ehrlich wouldn’t say which Beatles tune the British duo would perform, but John Mayer and Keith Urban will pair up to perform “Don’t Let Me Down,” while Alicia Keys and John

Legend will perform a duet on “Let It Be.” Maroon 5 also will hit the stage.

The special will air on CBS on Feb. 9—exactly 50 years after the Beatles made their U.S. debut on “The Ed Sullivan Show.” An estimated 73 million viewers tuned in to watch the event, which has become one of the world’s top cultural moments.

“They really did change people’s lives, so what I’m hoping this show ... gets across is the message that occasionally in history we are touched by certain artists who have a profound effect on us beyond just the music that they make,” Ehrlich said.

## Check out these warning signs of potential abusers

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** When my daughter was 20, she met a guy who one minute showered her with roses and the next would beat her up. She stayed with him thinking she could change him, and became pregnant. On her 21st birthday, she tried to get away from him. He chased her up the road and went to punch her in the stomach. When she turned to avoid the blow, it landed, hitting the baby in the head and killed the child.

Abby, once a beater, always a beater. I hope all women in abusive relationships will see this letter. My daughter is fine now, married and expecting. I pray for the women and girls out there who are going through what she once had to.

PENNSYLVANIA MOM

**DEAR PENNSYLVANIA MOM:** I’m glad you wrote, because your letter reminds me that it has been some time since I printed the warning signs of an abuser. Here they are:

(1) **PUSHES FOR QUICK INVOLVEMENT:** Comes on strong, claiming, “I’ve never felt loved like this by anyone.” An abuser pressures the new partner for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.

(2) **JEALOUS:** Excessively possessive; calls constantly or visits unexpectedly; prevents you from going to work because “you might meet someone”; checks the mileage on your car.

(3) **CONTROLLING:** If you are late, interrogates you intensively about whom you talked to and where you were; keeps all the money; insists you ask permission to go anywhere or do anything.

(4) **UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS:** Expects you to be the perfect mate and meet his or her every need.

(5) **ISOLATION:** Tries to isolate you from family and friends; accuses people who are your supporters of “causing trouble.” The abuser may deprive you of a phone or car, or try to prevent you from holding a job.

(6) **BLAMES OTHERS FOR PROBLEMS OR MISTAKES:** It’s always someone else’s fault if something goes wrong.

(7) **MAKES OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER FEELINGS:** The abuser says, “You make me angry” instead of “I am angry,” or says, “You’re hurting me by not doing what I tell you.”

(8) **HYPERSENSITIVITY:** Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when he or she is really mad. Rants about the injustice of things that are just a part of life.

(9) **CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OR CHILDREN:** Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also may expect children to do things that are far beyond their ability (whips a 3-year-old for wetting a diaper) or may tease them until they cry. Sixty-five percent of abusers who beat their partners will also abuse children.

(10) **“PLAYFUL” USE OF FORCE DURING SEX:** Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will during sex; finds the idea of rape exciting.

(11) **VERBAL ABUSE:** Constantly criticizes or says blatantly cruel things; degrades, curses, calls you ugly names. This may also involve sleep deprivation, waking you with relentless verbal abuse.

(12) **RIGID GENDER ROLES:** Expects you to serve, obey, remain at home.

(13) **SUDDEN MOOD SWINGS:** Switches from sweet to violent in minutes.

(14) **PAST BATTERING:** Admits to hitting a mate in the past, but says the person “made” him (or her) do it.

(15) **THREATS OF VIOLENCE:** Says things like, “I’ll break your neck” or “I’ll kill you,” and then dismisses them with, “Everybody talks that way,” or “I didn’t really mean it.”

Readers, if you feel you are at risk, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 or [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org).

■■■

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## ‘Downton’ draws record audience for season debut

**NEW YORK (AP)**—“Downton Abbey” drew a record-breaking audience for Sunday’s much-anticipated season premiere.

PBS and WGBH-TV announced Monday that the fourth-season debut of the lush British miniseries attracted 10.2 million viewers, according to Nielsen Fast National data.

This audience improves upon the viewership of the third-season premiere by 22 percent. PBS says it’s the highest-rated drama premiere in network history.

The two-hour episode picks up the action six months after the sudden death of Downton heir Matthew Crawley on last season’s finale.

“Downton Abbey” airs on the “Masterpiece” anthology, which is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. Stars include Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery and Maggie Smith.







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**Additional requirements:** All applicants must be of good health with good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards; provide current police/court clearance and health certificate. Must have reliable transportation and must undergo a drug test.

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
RETIREMENT FUND,  
Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL MANGLONA OGO and  
CLARA BERNICE S. OGO,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION  
NO.: 12-0267(R)

NOTICE OF FORE  
CLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 22, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right and interests of Defendants in and to the following real property:

Lot No. 345 R 236, containing an area of 909 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 05, the original of which, was recorded on May 14, 1984 as Document No. 84-0751 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

**1. Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on **Thursday, January 23, 2014**, at the hour of **2:00 p.m.** at the entrance to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D'Torres Bldg, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI. Registration for the auction sale will begin at 1:45 p.m.

**2. Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 30th day of December, 2013.  
/s/ Micheline W. Brel  
MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer  
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan  
Tel: (670) 235-8060  
Fax: (670) 235-8070  
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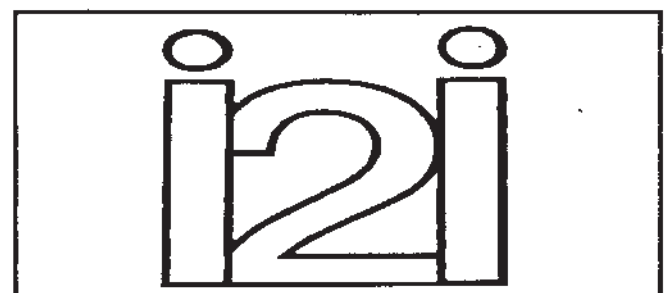
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# Johnson, Nets match season high with 3rd straight



NEW YORK (AP)—

Joe Johnson snapped out of a slump with 23 points against his former team, and the Brooklyn Nets matched a season high with their third straight victory by beating the Atlanta Hawks 91-86 on Monday night.

Mirza Teletovic scored 16 points and Alan Anderson added 14 starting in place of the injured Deron Williams as the Nets moved to 2-0 on four-game homestand that finishes with visits from Golden State on Wednesday and Miami on Friday.

Despite yet another injury to a key player, the Nets look ready to test themselves against those powerful teams after matching their three consecutive victories from Dec. 7-12.

Paul Millsap scored 16 points for the Hawks, who lost their third in a row to equal their worst stretch of the season. Jeff Teague also had 16 but shot 5 of 15 from the field.

Williams missed his 12th game this season after his ankle swelled Sunday. He had an MRI exam Monday that revealed the injury and will be re-evaluated Tuesday.

But the Nets got solid guard play from Shaun Livingston, who scored 12, and more importantly some clutch play from Johnson, who had been held in single digits in five straight games for the first time in 11 years.

He finished 10 of 22, making the go-ahead 3-pointer with 6:21 remaining.

The Hawks rebounded from a dreadful start to the second half to grab a 78-77 lead on DeMarre Carroll's dunk with 6:38 left in the game. Johnson answered with a 3-pointer on the next possession, Livingston had a steal and dunk, and Johnson nailed another jumper to cap the run of seven straight points and make it 84-78 with 3:37 to go.

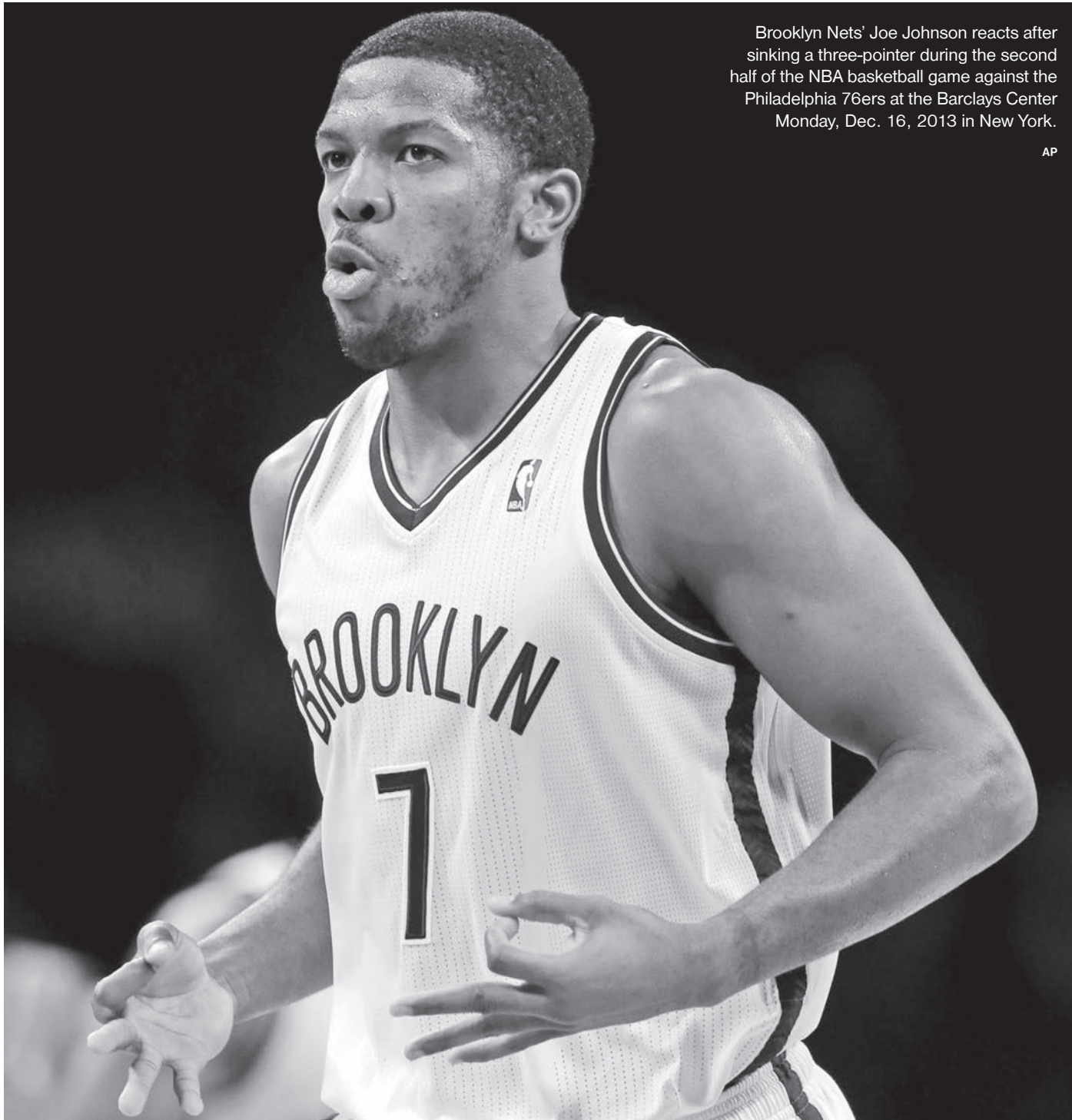
Johnson, traded to the Nets in the summer of 2012, made another jumper with 2:12 left, then made a huge play after Atlanta had trimmed it to two, finding Teletovic in the corner for a 3-pointer and 89-84 lead with 44 seconds remaining.

The teams meet again on Jan. 16 in London in what's considered a home game for the Hawks.

Kyle Korver needed little time to extend his NBA-record streak with a 3-pointer to 104 games, hitting with 9:11 remaining in the first quarter.

The Nets led most of the first half and were ahead by five with 3:25 remaining, but the Hawks scored the final 11 points, capped by Millsap's 3-pointer with 28 seconds left, to take a 52-46 advantage.

But the Nets stormed out with the first 14 of the third quarter to regain the lead. Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer angrily knocked his clipboard onto the court while reaching for it after calling one timeout, then was hit with a technical foul on a subse-



Brooklyn Nets' Joe Johnson reacts after sinking a three-pointer during the second half of the NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers at the Barclays Center Monday, Dec. 16, 2013 in New York.

AP

quent possession after redirecting his rage from his players to the referees.

Anderson made a jumper and then consecutive 3-pointers to cap the spurt and make it 60-52.

The Hawks didn't make their first field goal of the half until 5:41 remained, and the Nets

led 72-67 after three following three 3-pointers by Teletovic late in the period.

## Timberwolves 126, 76ers 95

In Philadelphia, Kevin Love scored 16 of his 26 points in a dominant third quarter and Nikola Pekovic had 16 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Timberwolves to a win over the 76ers.

Kevin Martin scored 18 points and Corey Brewer had 15 to help the Timberwolves move back to .500 (17-17). Minnesota made 16 of 26 3-pointers.

Thaddeus Young scored 20 points for the Sixers, who saw their four-game winning streak stopped. The Sixers had won the final four games of a six-game road trip.

The Timberwolves had seven players score in double figures.

## Clippers 101, Magic 81

In Los Angeles, Darren Collison scored 19 of his 21 points in the first half and had seven assists in his second start at point guard since Chris Paul's injury, leading the Clippers to a rout of the Magic.

Paul, who separated his right shoulder in Friday's win at Dallas and is expected to be sidelined for at least six weeks, sat behind the Clippers' bench in a suit and tie while Collison orchestrated the Clippers' offense without a hitch against the last-place team in the Southeast Division.

The Clippers enjoyed one of their best defensive efforts of the season, after surrendering 70 first-half points in each of their previous two games against Dallas and San Antonio.

Blake Griffin had 16 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and DeAndre Jordan added 17 rebounds and 14 points.



Chicago Bulls forward Luol Deng, left, shoots over Atlanta Hawks forward DeMarre Carroll during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014.

## Cavs send Bynum, picks to Bulls for Deng

CHICAGO (AP)—The Cleveland Cavaliers traded Andrew Bynum in time—and got an All-Star in return.

The Cavaliers acquired Luol Deng from the Chicago Bulls late Monday night for Bynum and three future draft picks, beating the deadline to guarantee his full contract for the season.

Along with Bynum, who had recently been suspended indefinitely by the Cavaliers for conduct detrimental to the team, the Cavaliers also sent the Bulls a first-round pick, two second-rounders, and gave Chicago the right to swap first-round choices in 2015 if the Cavs are not in the lottery.

Deng has been an All-Star the last two seasons. But he will be a free agent after this season, and with Bulls' championship aspirations gone following Derrick Rose's season-ending knee injury, there was no reason to hold onto him and risk losing him for nothing.

"We have great respect for Luol Deng, as a player and a person. He has been an incred-

ible contributor to our team on the court, and he has also done great things in the community," Bulls general manager Gar Forman said in a statement. "On behalf of the entire Bulls organization, I want to thank Luol for his years in Chicago."

Deng is averaging a career-best 19 points this season and has been a member of the league's All-Defensive team. He's also a former winner of the NBA's sportsmanship award, and his professionalism will be welcomed by the Cavaliers, who quickly ran out of patience with Bynum.

"Luol reflects all that we are striving for in building our team," Cavs general manager Chris Grant said. "He's a tremendous defensive player that can impact the game on both ends of the court with a team-first mentality and is a high character leader."

Bynum signed a two-year, \$24 million contract with the Cavs in July, but only \$6 million of the \$12.5 million he was scheduled to earn this season was guar-

anteed if he was wasn't still on Cleveland's payroll by Jan. 7.

Now the Bulls can waive him and earn that salary relief—their release in announcing the deal never mentions anything about Bynum playing for them—and position themselves for the future.

Chicago gets a future first-round pick that had belonged to Sacramento, along with 2015 and 2016 second-round picks Cleveland had obtained from the Portland Trail Blazers.

"The moves made today will put us in a better position to make the entire roster stronger for the future and to compete for a championship," Forman said.

Bynum averaged 8.4 points in 24 games for the Cavaliers. He sat out all last season with Philadelphia because of knee surgery in his only season with the 76ers, but the way his contract was structured made him worth the risk for Cleveland.

But the Cavaliers suspended him on Dec. 28, excusing him from all team activities while they searched for a deal.



# Zach Johnson open new year with a win in Hawaii

**KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)**—Zach Johnson is taking his place among the big boys in golf with two of the shortest clubs in his bag.

On a Plantation Course at Kapalua that should be paradise for the game's longest hitters, Johnson chipped in for his opening birdie and then hit four exquisite wedge shots on the back nine Monday to rally from two shots behind, close with a 7-under 66 and win the Tournament of Champions.

"I just picked it apart," Johnson said.

That was pivotal on the back nine, where five players had a chance to win. Johnson ran off four birdies in a five-hole stretch, all of them with a wedge in his hand, none of the shots particularly easy. He wound up

with a one-shot win over Jordan Spieth, the perfect way to start a new year.

Especially after he ended the old one with a win.

Johnson didn't need any heroics this time, not like last month in California in the World Challenge when he holed a shot from the drop zone—with a wedge—on the final hole and wound up beating Tiger Woods in a playoff. Kapalua was mainly about chipping and putting, and Johnson is among the best.

"Getting the ball in the fairway and giving my wedges a chance was crucial," he said. "It's about plotting my way, putting myself in a yardage spot that I know is going to give me an opportunity."

Johnson, starting his 11th season on the PGA Tour, won for the 11th time in his career. Since his rookie season in 2004, only Woods, Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh have won more on the PGA Tour. It also was Johnson's third win in his last six starts, dating to the BMW Champion-

ship outside Chicago in September that qualified him for this winners-only tournament in Kapalua.

Spieth had a one-shot lead going into the back nine and thought only of making three birdies. He started way too late, losing three good birdie chances in the soft, middle portion of the back nine and then finishing with two birdies that only gave him a runner-up finish. He closed with a 70.

"I was very pleased with the finish, being able to birdie the last two holes and at least have somewhat of a chance on 18," said Spieth, who had a 100-foot eagle putt just off the front of the green to force a playoff. "But ultimately, 14, 15, 16 really kind of hit me hard in the middle of the back nine."

He made par on all of them, twice missing putts from about 6 feet.

That's where Johnson thrived.

He caught Spieth for the lead with a wedge from 83 yards to about 2 feet for birdie on No. 12. Johnson laid back with a 3-wood on the 14th hole and hit wedge to about 8 feet below the hole for birdie and the outright lead. Perhaps the most daunting shot came on the par-5 15th, up a steep slope to a green with a false front. The grain from the fairway and on the green was against him.

"If you just missed it a little bit, it's come back at you," he said. "I hit a great shot."

He followed that with a wedge to 5 feet and a tough, downhill putt that broke sharply toward the ocean that he made for his final birdie.

Webb Simpson, tied with Spieth and defending champion Dustin Johnson to start the final round, never caught up and closed with a 70. Simpson tied for third with Kevin Streelman, who had a 67.



Zach Johnson holds the winning trophy after winning the Tournament of Champions golf tournament, Monday, Jan. 6, 2014, in Kapalua, Hawaii.

Jason Dufner was four strokes back in fifth after a 69.

Dustin Johnson made three bogeys before making his first birdie. He shot 73 and tied for sixth.

Spieth was playing in the final group for the first time and looked poised as ever. With birdies on both par 5s on the front nine, he had the outright lead and looked as though he might become the youngest player with two PGA Tour wins since Ralph Guldahl in 1932. The signature shot was from a bunker short of the 14th green. He blasted out to 6 feet above the hole for a chance to match birdies with Zach Johnson, in the group ahead.

Except that he missed it.

And then he had to scramble for par on the 15th when what he thought was a perfect shot rolled down the slope 45 yards away. "Yes!" Spieth said when the ball was in flight. But when he saw it land softly and tumble down the hill, he followed that with, "You've got to be kidding me."

It took two chips to reach the green, and only a 10-foot par putt kept him in the game.

Spieth missed an 8-foot birdie putt on the 16th, and the two birdies at the end at least gave him a good start to his new year. He earned \$665,000.

Simpson, who received some encouraging news about the newborn of caddie Paul Tesori before starting his round, also found the wrong gear with consecutive bogeys early in the round and spent the rest of the day trying to catch up. He birdied three of his last five holes, but that wasn't enough to keep pace with the leader.

Masters champion Adam Scott got within one shot of the lead with an eagle on the 15th hole, only for his wedge to hit the flag on the 16th. He had to settle for par, and he closed with a bogey to finish in the tie for sixth.

## Patriots not taking Colts defense lightly



**FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)**—A defense that allowed 44 points in a playoff game might boost the confidence of its next opponent.

Such generosity rarely leads to wins.

But the New England Patriots aren't counting on the Indianapolis Colts being that vulnerable again.

"I hope we can find something that we can move the ball with," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Monday, "but you have to go out there and execute it and do it at a high level."

Much of the focus in the Colts' 45-44 AFC wild-card playoff win over the Kansas City Chiefs on Saturday went to quarterback Andrew Luck for directing a comeback from a 38-10 third-quarter

deficit. The defense that put Indianapolis in that hole got far less attention.

In the first half, the Chiefs marched 82, 79 and 81 yards to touchdowns and 73 yards to a field goal after kickoffs or punts.

Did Belichick spot anything he could exploit when the Patriots host the Colts in a divisional-round game Saturday night?

"We might get an idea or two from that game and the other games they played before that," he said, "but we're not going to change our wholesale offense just because we saw somebody else do something. That's what (the Chiefs) do. We'll try to find things that we can do that we feel like we can attack the Colts with."

Things, perhaps, like those

the Patriots did last season in a 59-24 win over Indianapolis. That tied a team record for most points scored in a game. But the Colts' defense wasn't entirely to blame. New England returned two interceptions and a punt for touchdowns.

Turnovers also plagued the Colts against the Chiefs, leading to 17 points. That was uncharacteristic of Indianapolis, which committed an NFL-low 14 turnovers in the regular season. And the Colts allowed only 186 yards in the second half after giving up 327 in the first.

"Kansas City took advantage of a few opportunities and really made some big plays in critical situations," Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels said. "I think the turnovers, a few big plays here or

there, can certainly change the complexion of any game and seemed to do that the other day. That being said, this is a tremendously disruptive group."

It's led by Robert Mathis, who will try to speed up Tom Brady's throws or tackle him before he can make them.

The linebacker topped the NFL with a career-high 19 1/2 sacks and forced nine fumbles.

"He seems to be getting increasingly better as the years go on, which, as an offensive coach, you tend to hope it goes the other direction," McDaniels said. "He's as disruptive a player on the edge as we have played or will play."

Speed, acceleration, effort. Mathis has it all, McDaniels said.

"You can't ever assume that, 'Well I did enough,' be-

cause if you assume that then usually he ends up finishing the play better than you did," he added, "and a lot of times that ends up in a bad situation for the offense."

Mathis has five sacks against Brady in 12 games, the most he has against any quarterback not in the Colts' AFC South.

But he lines up in different spots on different plays, so Brady's blockers must be sharp.

"No one's more explosive than him," Brady said Monday on his contractually obligated appearance on WEEI radio. "Once he gets to the quarterback, it's not as much sacking him, but it's the strip sacks. The fumbles and the fumble recoveries is where he's really dangerous."

Six minutes into the third quarter last Saturday, Mathis did just that against Kansas City's Alex Smith. Kelvin Sheppard recovered for the

Colts and they capitalized with Luck's 3-yard scoring pass to Donald Brown. The 38-10 deficit early in the quarter was down to 38-24.

But if the Patriots keep double-teaming Mathis, they'll have one less player to block a blitz.


"It would be great to say, 'Well, why don't we just put a guy over there to help?'" McDaniels said. "They pressure enough with enough people, use the secondary, use the linebackers, that some of those people that you would like to use in help on a guy like him may have to be blocking blitzers."

Brady, though, is among the best at reading defenses. So he can throw quickly and remain upright.

"Every game you go into, you feel like you can do something," Belichick said. "I don't think we've ever played a team that we didn't feel like that."



# Lawyers detail \$765M plan for NFL concussions

 **PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Lawyers representing former NFL players in the proposed \$765 million settlement of thousands of concussion-related claims detailed Monday how the money would be divided.

The awards could reach \$5 million for athletes with amyotrophic lateral

sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig’s disease; \$4 million for a death involving brain trauma; and \$3 million for dementia cases.

Under the payout formula, those maximum awards would go to players under 45, who would likely need more lifetime care. For a man in his early 60s, the awards top out at \$3 million for ALS and \$950,000 for Alzheimer’s

disease. An 80-year-old with early dementia would get \$25,000.

Individual awards would also reflect how long the player spent in the NFL, unrelated medical issues and other factors. For instance, the award could be reduced significantly if someone had injuries from an unrelated stroke or car accident. Men without any neurologi-

cal problems would get baseline testing, and could seek compensation if test reveal any problems.

“This is an extraordinary settlement for retired NFL players and their families—from those who suffer with severe neurocognitive illnesses today, to those who are currently healthy but fear they may develop symptoms decades

into the future,” lead players’ lawyers Christopher Seeger and Sol Weiss said in a statement.

Senior U.S. District Judge Anita Brody of Philadelphia must still approve of the plan, and is expected to hold a fairness hearing later this year. Individual players can also opt out or object to the settlement, which followed five months of what a mediator called “vigorous” negotiations between the players and the NFL.

“We of course support plaintiffs’ motions, and will await further direction from Judge Brody,” NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

Players taking part will be encouraged to share their medical records with researchers studying brain injuries in football players, according to the extensive papers filed Monday.

The plaintiffs include class representative Kevin Turner, who played for the Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots and is now battling ALS.

## NO. 1

From Page 28

There was no miracle finish this time for the turnaround Tigers. They tossed the ball around on one final play, but it ended with Florida State jumping on a fumble, and the Seminoles sprinting onto the field under a storm of gamet and gold confetti.

Tre Mason had given Auburn (12-2) a 31-27 lead with a 37-yard touchdown run with 1:19 left after Kermit Whitfield had put Florida State in the lead for the first time since the first quarter with a 100-yard kickoff return to make it 27-24 with 4:31 left.

Mason ran for 195 yards and Nick Marshall threw two touchdown passes for the Tigers.

“I told them in the locker room, we put together the biggest turnaround in the history of college football. We were on the brink of making it one of those magical seasons,” Auburn coach Gus Malzahn said.

Winston was 20 for 35 for 237 yards and two fourth-quarter touchdown passes. Florida State hadn’t been challenged like this all season, winning by an average of 42 points.

The redshirt freshman, who turned 20 Monday, told his teammates: “I said ‘Guys, we didn’t come here for no reason.’ I said ‘Y’all, this is ours, man.’”

The Seminoles were down 21-3 in the first half, and wobbling, but never fell over.

And now Florida State is national

champion for the first time since 1999, the first team to win it after being down at halftime.

Winston was jumpy against a strong Auburn pass rush, led by Dee Ford. He was sacked four times.

The Seminoles cut it to 21-10 with a late touchdown in the second quarter and chipped into Auburn’s lead with a 41-yard field goal by Roberto Aguayo with 6:05 left in the third.

Meanwhile, Florida State had found some answers to Auburn’s spread offense. A holding penalty that wiped out a long pass also helped keep the Tigers scoreless in the third quarter, and the Seminoles began the fourth with P.J. Williams intercepting Marshall’s pass and setting up Florida State at its 38.

When Winston tossed in the flats to Chad Abram, who hurdled over a tackler on the way to an 11-yard touchdown the lead was 21-19. Florida State was considering going for two to tie, but Devonta Freeman was flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct and that pushed the extra point back 15 yards and forced the Seminoles to kick and make it 21-20.

Auburn responded with its best drive since the second quarter, mixing runs by Mason and Marshall with one big pass to Ricardo Louis. But it stalled at the 6 and Cody Parkey added a 22-yard field goal to make it 24-20 with 4:42 left.

During Winston’s record-breaking season, filled with blowouts and fourth quarters spent watching from the sideline, he never faced a situation in which he had to drive his team to a winning score.

Now he had a chance to add that last line to his remarkable resume—until Whitfield handled it for him.

Whitfield broke through a seam around the 30 and hit the sideline at full speed. Fisher ran down the other sideline yelling “Go! Go!” with Winston chasing behind pumping his arms and slapping his coach on the back. Florida State was on top, but Auburn was not done.

Mason and Marshall went to work, driving Auburn into Florida State territory, and Auburn’s Heisman finalist, Mason, finished it off by bowling over Florida State safety Jalen Ramsey on the way to the end zone.

Auburn billed itself as a team of destiny, having gone from 3-9 to SEC champs under first-year coach Malzahn—with the help of some miraculous finishes.

But for much of the first half team destiny, the 10-point underdog, was dominating.

Marshall flipped into the flats for Mason, who followed a few wipe-out blocks and zipped into the end zone for a 12-yard score with 3:07 left in the first quarter. Florida State trailed for the first time since Sept. 28 against Boston College.

The hole got deeper.

With Florida State’s linebackers and safeties peeking into the backfield again, Auburn broke another receiver free down the middle. Marshall threw a strike this time to Melvin Ray, who went 50 yards for his first career touchdown and a 14-3 lead.

Meanwhile, for maybe the first time this season, Winston looked rattled. After

completing three of his first four passes, he went 1 for 7, including a simple short throw that sailed high and missed its target by at least 10 yards. Fisher could be seen yelling to his coaches that they needed to calm down Winston.

Auburn’s defense certainly didn’t look as if it ranked 89th in the country in yards allowed per game. Ford was getting pressure on Winston, Chris Davis defended three passes and the Tigers’ D was playing like so many other SEC defenses that have controlled so many other BCS championship games during the conference’s reign over college football.

Ben Bradley and Angelo Blackson sandwiched Winston as he tried to tuck and run and the ball came loose. Auburn recovered at Florida State’s 27 and soon after Marshall swept in from 4 yards out for a 21-3 lead with 5:01 left in the first half.

Florida State finally came alive with the help of some trickery and some old-fashioned want-to from Winston. Facing fourth-and-4 in their own territory, the Seminoles faked the punt and ran a reverse to Karlos Williams that went for 7 yards.

Then Winston asserted himself in not the typical way for the most efficient passer in the country. On third-and-7, he broke free of the pocket, stiff-armed past one Auburn tackler and went for 21 yards to the 3. Freeman plunged into the end zone on the next play to make it 21-10 with 1:28 left in the half.

Fisher patted Winston on the helmet as the quarterback shook his head, as if to say, ‘I’m better now.’

## FLORIDA

From Page 28

danced in a civic center where they had watched the game. For both sides, it was a tense finale after a game in which Auburn mostly had the first-half momentum.

In the end, Florida State fans erupted into thunderous cheering. Outside the arena, a group of fans who built a fire cheered after watching the game amid a bitter cold snap. Like many in the region, fans at Auburn and Florida State weather unseasonably bitter cold temperatures.

Tallahassee Police Officer David Northway said he had no reports of any major incidents by early Tuesday as celebrations dragged on into the wee hours.

“We had 25 officers brought in earlier in the evening to monitor the civic center,” he said, adding police then fanned out to patrol around the campus as part of a contingency plan that had

been in the works for weeks.

In Auburn, Ala., stunned fans emptied out of bars, some falling on their knees once the clock expired in Pasadena, Calif. Normally Auburn fans delight in festooning their celebration site, Toomer’s Corner, with toilet paper. But one fan dejectedly tossed a single roll of paper in the street that was quickly picked up by a police officer.

For Auburn fans, it was a bitter moment after their team had taken a surprising 21-10 lead by the end of the first half.

Earlier, thousands of Auburn fans in orange and blue roared inside Auburn Arena, watching on a big video screen as Auburn under Nick Marshall racked up the first touchdowns. The fans shook and warmed the basketball coliseum with their energy - while outside temperatures hovered in the low 20s.

Auburn fan Kat Damron screamed Auburn’s “War Eagle” battle cry and danced as the offense moved down the field toward the first Auburn

touchdown. She was nearly hoarse by the end of the first half after Auburn scored further.

“War Damn Eagle ‘til I die, baby, ‘til I die,” Damron said. “This is second best thing to being at the game. I would love to be in Pasadena right now.”

With most of the South enduring a bitter unseasonable cold snap, many fans might have wished they were in balmy Pasadena, Calif., some 59 degrees and thousands of miles away, where the fight for the title was played out.

Meanwhile, a sizable crowd of Florida State fans gathered in the local civic center in Tallahassee, Fla., thundering at their initial 3-point field goal and a Florida State scoring run with 1:28 left in the half. FSU’s Golden Girls danced when their team began scoring.

Some Florida State fans lamented that the early momentum wasn’t with them at the outset. The Seminoles hadn’t trailed in any game since late September.

“We need a lot of momentum and

## MASON

From Page 28

held firm in big moments couldn’t stop the Heisman Trophy winner and his deadly offense.

Mason, a Heisman finalist, ran 34 times for 195 yards for his sixth straight 100-yard game. He pinballed off defensive back Jalen Ramsey downfield for his 23rd rushing touchdown.

Marshall threw for 217 yards and two touchdowns with an interception. He also ran for 45 yards and a third score.

Mason, who is eligible for the NFL draft, broke Bo Jackson’s school record of 1,786 yards rushing set during his 1985 Heisman season.

More significantly, the Southeastern Conference’s leading rusher came up huge on another big stage. He helped power the Tigers into the game with 46 carries for 304 yards against Missouri to capture the SEC championship and gained 164 yards against Alabama.

Those two performances helped him land in New York for the Heisman ceremony.

Mason and Marshall were integral

parts of a season that matched the biggest turnaround in college football history after a 3-9 debacle.

Marshall had deftly operated Auburn’s zone read and the nation’s top rushing attack after a midseason switch in offensive philosophy to capitalize on his strengths. The junior college transfer didn’t arrive on campus until the summer to start learning Gus Malzahn’s no-huddle offense, but learned as he went.

Not known primarily for his passing, Marshall still held his own against Winston. He completed 14 of 27 passes and ran 16 times.

we’re not getting it. That’s not good,” said Travis Hett, a ‘born-and raised’ Florida State fan after the half.

But he would not be disappointed as Florida State found its footing in the second half and muscled to victory.

Hopeful of holding the traditional Auburn victory celebration of rolling trees with toilet paper at Toomer’s Corner after a win, friends Carlie McCall and Erica McDaniel watched the end of the game from a sidewalk looking into a bar through a window in Auburn.

Instead of cheering, the two both sank to their knees on the pavement when Florida State pulled out a win at the end. They said Florida State looked beaten earlier on.

“They looked like that had it, and I guess (FSU coach Jimbo Fisher) went in that locker room and something to say at the halftime and they won it,” said McCall, of Jacksonville, Fla.

“We’re still Auburn family,” said McDaniel, of Alexander City, Ala.

It wasn’t a perfect performance. He underthrew a wide-open Ricardo Louis downfield in the first quarter, and the hero of the Georgia win couldn’t pull it in.

Marshall also had a 50-yard touchdown pass to reserve Melvin Ray, a former minor league baseball player who had caught only four passes for 58 yards coming into the game.

Marshall hooked up with the other offensive star with a 12-yard touchdown to Mason in the first quarter. Marshall’s 4-yard touchdown gave the underdog Tigers a 21-3 lead 25 minutes into the game.

 **TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**

**NBA STANDINGS**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	16	16	.500	—
Brooklyn	13	21	.382	4
Boston	13	21	.382	4
Philadelphia	12	22	.353	5
New York	11	22	.333	5½

**Southeast Division**

Miami	26	8	.765	—
Atlanta	18	17	.514	8½
Washington	14	17	.452	10½
Charlotte	15	20	.429	11½
Orlando	10	24	.294	16

**Central Division**

Indiana	27	6	.818	—
Chicago	14	18	.438	12½
Detroit	14	20	.412	13½
Cleveland	11	23	.324	16½
Milwaukee	7	26	.212	20

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

San Antonio	26	8	.765	—
Houston	22	13	.629	4½
Dallas	19	15	.559	7
New Orleans	15	17	.469	10
Memphis	15	18	.455	10½

**Northwest Division**

Oklahoma City	27	7	.794	—
Portland	26	8	.765	1
Minnesota	17	17	.500	10
Denver	16	17	.485	10½
Utah	11	25	.306	17

**Pacific Division**

L.A. Clippers	24	13	.649	—
Golden State	23	13	.639	½
Phoenix	20	12	.625	1½
L.A. Lakers	14	20	.412	8½
Sacramento	10	22	.313	11½

**HYUNDAI TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS SCORES**

**KAPALUA, Hawaii** (AP) — Scores Monday at the Tournament of Champions, a \$5.7 million U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,452-yard, par-73 Plantation Course at Kapalua Resort:

**FINAL**

Zach Johnson	67-66-74-66—273
Jordan Spieth	66-70-69-69—274
Kevin Streelman	67-71-70-67—275
Webb Simpson	66-71-68-70—275
Jason Dufner	67-72-69-69—277
Billy Horschel	72-72-68-66—278
Matt Kuchar	68-68-75-67—278
Adam Scott	70-70-69-69—278
Dustin Johnson	70-66-69-73—278
Ryan Moore	67-71-72-69—279
Harris English	70-71-70-69—280
Brandt Snedeker	70-69-69-72—280
Brian Gay	70-76-65-70—281
Woody Austin	72-70-68-71—281
Gary Woodland	71-70-67-73—281
Michael Thompson	66-71-73-72—282
Ken Duke	70-69-71-72—282
Patrick Reed	70-72-67-73—282
Chris Kirk	66-75-68-73—282
Martin Laird	71-72-70-70—283
Jonas Blixt	76-70-69-70—285
Sang-Moon Bae	69-73-71-72—285
Jimmy Walker	73-73-67-72—285
Bill Haas	71-73-69-74—287
Scott Brown	71-73-68-75—287
Boo Weekley	71-74-70-73—288
Russell Henley	72-72-70-75—289
D.A. Points	72-74-73-73—292
John Merrick	71-76-71-74—292
Derek Ernst	79-76-76-70—301

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Lee bags singles crown in Aussie

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

CNMI junior player Carol Lee capped her giant-slaying ways in Australia with a finals win in the girls U12 singles event of the 2014 Australia Post Margaret

Court Cup yesterday.

Lee played in the finals against the top-ranked Kelly Gilmour of Australia and stunned her heavily favored foe in two sets, 6-1, 6-3, at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South

Wales. Gilmour was the fourth seeded player that was hit by Lee's upset axe. The first three were the No. 3 pick Hana Kim, No. 6 Mia Repac, and the second-ranked Caitlyn Portera.

The CNMI netter clinched the

girls U12 singles championships without dropping a single set. She was also the lone unseeded player out of 24 to finish in the Top 7.

With Lee gaining the girls U12 singles title, the Pacific Oceania ITF Touring Team closed out the four-day tournament with two championships. Tahiti's Gillian Osmont gave the visiting squad the other championship after ruling the boys U10 singles. The team missed its third crown when Palau's Ayana Rengiil fell to Australia's Ivana Popovic in the finals of the girls U14 singles.

Meanwhile, in the girls U12 doubles, Lee and teammate Naia Guilton of Tahiti made it all the way to the quarterfinals. The Pacific Oceania ITF Touring team members won over Australia's Ashleigh Simes and Brianna Smith in straight sets, 6-2, 6-1, to march into the Round of 8. In the quarterfinals, Lee and Guilton were paired against the second-ranked Kim and Keona Mendis and ran out of gas in a lung-busting three-set game. Lee and Guilton eked out a 7-6 victory in the opening set, but missed a sweep when Mendis and Kim took a 6-3 win in the second set. Then in the deciding third set, it was a back-and-forth match with the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol Lee, seen here competing in a local tournament on Saipan last year, won the girls U12 singles title in the 2014 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup yesterday at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales.

ranked pair eventually pulling off a 10-8 thriller. Mendis and Kim went on to bow to Gilmour and Portera in the finals, 3-6, 2-6.

In other doubles results, the CNMI's Michael Ren teamed up with Fiji's Nicholas Yee Joy and won in the first round against Talen Andrews and Brock Krane, 6-2, 6-1. However, Ren and Joy failed to advance to the quarterfinals after losing to the top-ranked and eventual champions Thomas Pavlekovich-Smith and Timothy Karpinski in Round 2, 6-0, 6-2.

Another CNMI bet, Christopher Cajigan also played in a doubles event. He partnered with Fiji's Shivneil Chand and drew a bye in the first round before falling to the six-ranked Thomas Bosancic and Ayrton Santos in the second round, 0-6, 3-6.

In the U16 singles, Cajigan made it to as far as the quarterfinals in the consolation bracket after beating Alexander Bielski, 6-4, 6-4. The CNMI netter then suffered a tough 6-7, 7-6, 10-5 loss to Henry Minh Tri Tu in the Round of 8.

## Rollers 4 back on track



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers 4's Warren Ellama hits the break as two FTMP defenders meet him near the center court during their game in the Sun Palace caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rollers 4 snapped a losing streak, following a 43-38 triumph against Dream Team in the curtain-raiser in the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Rollers 4, which dropped back-to-back games last week, bowing to Rollers 3, 55-44, and FTMP, 49-53, gained only its second win in the round-robin tournament. The other victory came during the league's opener when Rollers 4 prevailed over Rollers 5, 42-40.

With its even 2-2 record, Rollers 4 boosted its playoff chance. Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoffs after the round-robin play and Rollers 4 is in fourth place behind Rollers 3 (4-1), Rollers 2 (3-1) and Rollers 1 and FTMP, which share third place with their identical 2-1 slates. Dream Team and Rollers 5 complete the field and are in danger of missing the cut with their 0-3 and 0-5 marks, respectively.

Dream Team seemed to have a chance in barging into the win column when it led in the first half, 28-22. Dream Team had a balance offense in the opening 20 minutes of play to threaten Rollers 4, however it failed to sustain its momentum in the second half, missing that elusive first win in the seven-team tournament.

The all-female crew of Dream Team nailed only five field goals in the second half and only Marie Javier scored more than 2 points for the team.

It was Rollers 4's turn to spread the wealth in the final frame with five of its players

hitting at least two field goals apiece. Big man Antonio Santos led Rollers 4's come-from-behind win, as he made 4 of the team's last 6 points and capitalized on his advantage in the shaded lane with Dream Team missing center Rachel Abrams.

### Hula Girls 64, Tappers 47

In the second game, Hula Girls remained unscathed after whipping Tappers.

Hula Girls now has a 4-0 record to lead the four-team field, while Tappers is still winless after four matches in the double-round robin girls division contest.

Irish Pagarao anchored anew Hula Girls' victory, as she exploded for 28 points. Jan Travilla and Joy Pena also finished in double figures, contributing 10 apiece.

Alyanna Joy Garon had 18 to lead Tappers' losing cause. Her 12 points in the opening quarter lifted Tappers to a slim 25-23 lead at the break. However, Tappers slowly lost the driver's seat when Garon went cold in the second half, while Pagarao continued to do the damage for Hula Girls.

Pagarao dropped 17 points in the final canto, while Travilla back here up, logging all her points in that period after fruitless effort in the opening half.

### First Game

**Rollers 4 43** – Santos 8, Sagun 8, Deocares 7, Ellama 5, Iba 5, Yuan 4, Bucayo 3, Espinola 2.

**Dream Team 38** – Javier 8, Williams 6, Ito 6, I. Palero 4, Pena 3, Alegre 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 22-28, 43-38.

### Second Game

**Hula Girls 64** – Pagarao 28,

Travilla 10, Pena 10, I. Palero 8, Javier 4, J. Palero 1.

**Tappers 47** – Garon 18, Alipio 10, Rogoyawa 8, Francisco 8, Bartolo 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 23-25, 64-47.

## NMASA to relocate, reopen weight room



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The room at the southern side of the Oleai Sports Complex will be the new weight room.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is working on relocating and reopening the weight room at the Oleai Sports Complex later this month.

NMASA executive director Tony Rogolifoi reported at the association's meeting last Thursday that they are eyeing the room adjacent to the main office of the complex as the new weight room. Rogolifoi added they will begin transferring equipment to the new weight room this month.

NMASA program coordinator Elias Rangamar, in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, said they are hoping to open the weight room to the public by the end of January. Fees and operation hours

will also be announced later this month.

The complex's weight room is formerly located on the north side of the facility, facing the track oval. However, it has been closed for several years, as its ceiling was condemned. Some equipment were also missing, forcing the former caretaker (the defunct Division of Sports and Recreation) to turn away prospective users.

Meanwhile, more repairs and improvements will be done at the complex. Rogolifoi said they will coordinate with the people in charge of the Capital Improvement Project for funds for NMASA's projects. The executive director said they are planning to repair the ceiling

and windows of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, put up signs around the facility, and maintain ground work at the Francisco "Tan" Ko Palacios Ballfield and Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.



NMASA is also looking into ways how to work on the bubbles at the track oval and is reminding the public to take extra caution when using the facility.

As for the usage fees and operation hours of the various facilities at the complex, Rangamar said they started the open gym policy since last Monday. Players who want to practice volleyball and basketball can use the Ada Gym every Monday and Friday from 11am to 1pm and every Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm to 8:30pm

at a minimal fee of \$1 per player.

The Ada Gym is also being used for MHS basketball team practice every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm, while athletics practice and Frisbee games held at the track facility every Monday (for Frisbee only) and Friday from 5pm to 7pm. Tuesday and Friday are for soccer games from 4pm to 7pm. These schedules are good only until this Sunday.

Rangamar added schools, groups, and sports federations wishing to use the facilities at the complex must make their request/reservation in writing. Application forms are available at the complex. For more information, contact Rogolifoi at tonyrogolifoi@yahoo.com or Rangamar at eli\_rang@yahoo.com.





Florida State's Kelvin Benjamin catches a touchdown pass during the second half of the NCAA BCS National Championship college football game against Auburn Monday, Jan. 6, 2014, in Pasadena, Calif. AP

# No. 1 Florida State beats No. 2 Auburn

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

**P**ASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Jameis Winston and Florida State faced down adversity for the first time this season, and showed they could take a punch if that's what it took to win a national championship.

The Heisman Trophy winner threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Kelvin Benjamin with 13 seconds left and No. 1 Florida State beat No. 2 Auburn 34-31 to win the BCS championship game on Monday night.

"There's a lot of heart and guts down in Tallahassee, too," coach Jimbo Fisher said.

The Bowl Championship Series went out with a bang, with one of the best championship games in its 16-year history. And the Southeastern Conference's seven-year winning streak in college foot-



ball's biggest game was snapped.

Winston struggled much of the night but was near perfect when the Seminoles (14-0) needed it most, going 6 for 7 for 77 yards on the game-winning 80-yard drive. A

pass interference penalty on Auburn's Chris Davis gave Florida State a first-and-goal at the 2 and on the next play Winston hit his big receiver, Benjamin, for the touchdown in traffic.

**See NO. 1 on  
Page 26**

## Florida St. fans revel in BCS victory over Auburn

By JAY REEVES and PHIL SEARS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida State fans shouted and danced in raucous celebration after their top-ranked team roared back in the final seconds of the fourth quarter to beat Auburn in the BCS championship game.

Many pumped fists gleefully, hugged and slapped high fives in Tallahassee, Fla., after Jameis Winston threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Kelvin Benjamin with 13 seconds left as Florida State beat No. 2 Auburn 34-31 on Monday night.

In Tallahassee, two machines rained streams of garnet and gold confetti down on thousands of fans who jumped and

**See FLORIDA on Page 26**



Florida State Golden Girls cheerleaders react as they watch Florida State score a touchdown on a 30-foot screen at the Tallahassee Leon County Civic Center in the second quarter of the NCAA BCS National Championship college football game against Auburn, Monday, Jan. 6, 2014, in Tallahassee, Fla. AP

## Mason, Marshall can't deliver another Auburn win

By JOHN ZENOR  
AP SPORTS WRITER

**PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—**Tre Mason and Nick Marshall delivered everything but the victory.

No. 2 Auburn's potent 1-2 backfield punch came through in the clutch again Monday night in a 34-31 loss to No. 1 Florida State in the BCS championship game. This time it just wasn't enough.

Mason's 37-yard touchdown run with 1:19 left gave the Tigers (12-2) a lead that Jameis Winston & Co. wiped out with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Kelvin Benjamin with 13 seconds left.

A defense that had mostly

**See MASON on Page 26**



Auburn's Nick Marshall (14) congratulates Melvin Ray (82) after Ray's touchdown catch during the first half of the NCAA BCS National Championship college football game against Florida State Monday, Jan. 6, 2014, in Pasadena, Calif. AP